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ISSUED IN THE UNITED STATES

By

BAUMAN L. BELDEN



Price Five Dollars

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

BROADWAY AT 156TH STREET

NEW YORK

1927



SAGOYEWATHA OR RED JACKET

INDIAN PEACE MEDALS

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P R E F A C E

Of the Indian Peace Medals here described, The American Numismatic Society has the largest and best collection in existence; and of the medals of Colonial times and those issued by the British Government for Canada, has as well many fine examples. Except where noted to the contrary, illustrations in this paper are from specimens in this collection.

It has been the aim of this Society, for a number of years, to bring together a collection, as nearly complete as possible, of the medals given to and worn by the first Americans. Its efforts in this respect have met with a good measure of success, and it is still striving to acquire what is needed to fill existing gaps.

Of the organizations here noted as having Indian medals of Washington, the National Museum at Washington and the Chicago Historical Society have also other Indian Peace medals of great interest. The J. Coolidge Hills Collection in the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn., contains a considerable number of Indian medals, though none of Washington. There are also several of these medals in the Missouri Historical Society, of St. Louis, and the Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland, and probably in other institutions of like character. Concerning those in private collections, very little information is available.

A complete account of the history of Indian Peace Medals cannot at this date be written. The present attempt to assemble the ascertainable facts is largely an exploration into an unknown field. The medals have come down to us, but very little tradition as to their issue has survived. It is hoped that new data will come to light later, and it is with this expectation that the present brief history has been undertaken. If the publication succeeds in arousing more interest in this series, and results in the disclosure of further facts, hitherto unknown, its purpose will have been accomplished.

I wish to extend my heartiest thanks to Mr. Howland Wood, Curator of The American Numismatic Society, for his collaboration in this work. His constant guidance, his wide information on the subject, his search through state papers and letters, and careful criticism on many points, have been of the greatest possible help. Mr. Wood, in addition, has also read the proofs and supervised the letterpress and plate making. To Mrs. Agnes Baldwin Brett, who has also rendered

considerable assistance in the preparation of this manuscript and in the proof reading, to Mr. Edward T. Newell, President of this Society, to Mr. William H. Woodin and Mr. Robert J. Eidlitz, I am under great obligation for their kind support of the project of producing this manuscript in the large format to which alone it is suited. Thanks are due also to the late Mr. Walter C. Wyman, to Mr. George Bird Grinnell, Mr. Stephen H. P. Pell, and Mr. Arthur Woodward of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and to the officials of the Public Libraries, Historical Societies and Museums, which are mentioned in the text, as well as to various members of the Committee on Indian Peace Medals of The American Numismatic Society, and to many others who have kindly given encouragement and advice.

BAUMAN L. BELDEN.

Cranford, N. J.
June 25, 1927.

INDIAN PEACE MEDALS ISSUED IN THE UNITED STATES

INTRODUCTION

“In all ages
Every human heart is human,
That in even savage bosoms
There are longings, yearnings, strivings
For the good they comprehend not,
That the feeble hands and helpless,
Groping blindly in the darkness,
Touch God's right hand in that darkness
And are lifted up and strengthened”

These beautiful lines from Longfellow's *Hiawatha* occur to me whenever I think of the history or character of the American Indians.

There is a popular idea that the Indian of the past was merely a savage who lived by hunting, whose chief pastime was fighting, and who practiced cruelties of the most dreadful nature whenever the opportunity offered.

A little closer study of past events will, however, bring out the facts that most of the atrocities that we read about can be directly traced to some act of injustice which the Indian had suffered at the hands of the white man in the past, or which may even have occurred before his time and been handed down as a sort of family tradition. The attitude of the Indian was in the main friendly until he found that advantage had been taken of his simplicity, and then he would take his revenge in the only way he knew. Far from being a wandering savage whose only knowledge was how to kill, he lived for centuries subject to tribal laws which were enforced with an impartiality that would put to shame many proceedings which occur all around us today.

The medals which, for nearly three hundred years, have been given to prominent Indians in North America, have been happily called Indian Peace Medals, because, with but very few exceptions, the purpose of these medals was the promotion of peace and friendship between the Indians and their white neighbors.

These medals may be divided into two groups. The first group comprises those issued by, or on behalf of European governments, having colonies or dependencies in this country, consisting of a few French and Spanish medals, and a large number of British, which were issued, either in England or in the colonies, up to the Revolution, and later in England or Canada. Most of these medals have been described in various publications relating to early American and Canadian coins and medals, or in sale catalogues, but a comprehensive history of them still remains to be written in the English language.

The second group consists of the medals issued for presentation to Indians in the United States and covers a period of just one hundred years, the earliest bearing the date 1789 and the latest 1889. The medals belonging to this group, which are the ones described in the following pages, constitute two series. First: Medals issued by the United States Government, in the name of the President. Second: Medals issued by fur trading companies, or individuals, which had, or were supposed to have had, authority from the Secretary of War to prepare and distribute such medals.

The Constitution of the United States was written in 1787 and formally adopted in 1788. George Washington was inaugurated as first President, on the 30th of April, 1789. The seat of the Government was in New York City until December 1790, when it was removed to Philadelphia where it remained until 1800 when Washington became the National Capitol.

The custom of giving medals to friendly Indians, which had prevailed in colonial times, was adopted by the United States Government soon after it came into existence. The earliest medal bears the date 1789 and is inscribed G. WASHINGTON PRESIDENT. It is engraved on a thin sheet of silver and is oval in form. This was followed by others of a similar character dated 1792, 1793 and 1795. In 1797 three medals to be struck, both in copper and silver, known as the Washington Season medals, were made in England and shipped to this country but arrived after Washington's administration had terminated. These were followed by a series of medals, mostly in silver, bearing the portrait of each succeeding president, ending with Benjamin Harrison, 1889, with the exception of William Henry Harrison who died very shortly after his inauguration.

Indian Peace Medals were usually given to chiefs, or other important men on the occasion of the signing of treaties, the holding of important conferences, either in or adjacent to the territory of the Indians, or at the National Capitol, and when the Indians visited the seat of government, or federal representatives visited the Indian country; also frequently by Indian agents, at their own discretion, when circumstances warranted. Apparently the government kept no very accurate records of the number of medals distributed or to whom given, either in the early days or later on, as many were sent to Indian agents for general distribution. *Vide* letters from Law Taliaferro and others cited on subsequent pages,

Schoolcraft¹ gave to Indians medals furnished him by the government. He speaks of investing an Indian with a medal of the first class for his "noble" act of saving an Indian agent from drowning. On page 302 he states:

"Anxious to secure the influence and goodwill of a man, (Guelle Plat) so respectable both for his standing and his understanding, I had presented him on his previous visit (July 19, 1828), with the President's large medal, accompanied by silver wrist bands, gorget, etc., silver hat-band, a hat for himself and son, etc."

¹ Personal Memoirs of a Residence of Thirty years with the Indian Tribes, edition 1851, Philadelphia, p. 292.

and on page 378, says—

“I invested Mozobodo with a silver medal of the first class, and a U. S. flag.”

Special commissioners to the Indians were furnished with money, medals, jewelry, silver ornaments, flags, uniforms and various other articles for distribution to the Indians, as the following references will attest.²

Letter from General Putnam to the Secretary of War, Fort Washington, Aug. 16, 1792. (In re his journey to Indians Northwest of the Ohio)—“and I take with me some of the medals, arm and wrist-bands, and other jewels.”

The Secretary of War to James Seagrove, August 11, 1792. (Agent of Commissioner, to quiet disturbances among, and to engage in Military Services, &c, of the Creeks, &c., in 1792).

. . . “I send by Major Gaither twelve pair of silver arm-bands, four silver medals, and one hundred and thirty-two pair of nose and ear jewels. These articles you will deliver to Mr. Jack Kinnard, and others of your friends, as an earnest of further rewards.” (Kinnard was a Creek chief.)

Friday 29th June 1792

Mr. Shaw—“Brothers . . . he (the President) sent besides one thousand dollars' worth of clothes by me, to be presented to the beloved men of your nation, with many other valuable articles in medals and other things, all which I have nearly distributed according to direction and advice. . . .”

(Leonard D. Shaw, Agent resident in Cherokee nation.)

An invoice of Indian goods sent from an U. S. Arsenal, April 24, 1809, is interesting:

“Invoice of Sundry Packages to be Delivered by George Ingels, Esqr. to William Linnard, Esqr., Mil'y.—Agent for Transportation to the Mil'y. Agent at Albany and to be by him forwarded to Govr. Hull at Detroit, Marked and Numbered as pr. Margin.”

Then follows an itemization of 29 kegs and boxes numbered, containing powder, harness, tools of all sorts, paper, beads, flints, blacksmith's supplies, medicines, etc. In box 16 is the item, 36 Jefferson medals. The document concludes:

“We the Subscribers, Chiefs and Head men of the Different Nations of Indians do acknowledge to have received of William Hull, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, all the articles, etc.”

Signed by sixteen Indians.³

Yet, on the other hand many of the medals were presented through regular official channels and with much ceremony as is attested by the following excerpts from the American State Papers. Indian Affairs, pp. 248, 249.

Message from Secretary of War to the Choctaw Nation, Feb. 17, 1792.

“ . . . Your father, General Washington, sends you two great silver medals, and two sets of arm-bands, and also two suits of rich uniform clothes, as a mark of his af-

² American State Papers. Indian Affairs, Vol. I, pp. 240, 257, 272.

³ Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society Collection, vol. XXVI, Lansing, Mich., 1908, pp. 358 ff.

fection. You will point out the two great chiefs who are to receive these marks of distinction. . . ." (These medals were later delivered through Governor Blount. *Vide* letter p. 266.)

Message from the Secretary of War to the Chickasaw Nation, Feb. 17, 1792.

"The President of the United States is very desirous to reward the attachment of Piamingo and the warriors who were with him at fort Washington, and he now sends to Piamingo, and two other principal chiefs,—great silver medals, and each a suit of rich uniform clothes; and further, he has ordered presents to be sent from fort Washington to the Chickasaw Nation generally, of such articles as shall be useful to them." (These medals were transmitted through Governor Blount to Piamingo. *Vide* letter p. 266.)

Medals were also given to Indians, who had received medals from other governments, in exchange for those that they had, as the possession of a medal was supposed to be an indication of allegiance to the power from which it was received.

That this was recognized is shown by the following resolution that was adopted by the Continental Congress on the 20th of April, 1786, and was made effective after Washington became President in 1789:

"That the Board of Treasury ascertain the number and value of the medals received by the commissioners appointed to treat with the Indians, from said Indians, and have an equal number, with the arms of the United States, made of silver, and returned to the chiefs from whom they were received."⁴

The following letter dated July 7, 1789, from General Knox, Secretary of War, to the President of the United States, concerning the Southern Indians is of especial interest as regards this government's attitude concerning medals.

"In the Administration of the Indians, every proper expedient that can be devised to gain their affections, and attach them to the interest of the Union, should be adopted. The British Government had the practice of making the Indians presents of silver medals and gorgets, uniform clothing, and a sort of military commission. The possessors retained an exclusive property to these articles; and the Southern Indians are exceedingly desirous of receiving similar gifts from the United States, for which they would willingly resign those received from the British officers. The policy of gratifying them cannot be doubted."⁵

This practice of exchanging medals, must have been fairly common. The English, after their conquest of Canada, systematically got rid of the French medals worn by the Indians, either by exchange of English for French medals or by removing the name and title of the French King on the medal and substituting the name of the English King. The American Numismatic Society has two medals of Louis XV thus treated.

The following extracts from the American State Papers, Pages 50 and 203, show that the Indians themselves were anxious to exchange their medals.

⁴ J. F. Loubat, LL.D., *The Medallie History of the United States of America, 1776-1876*, New York 1878, p. xxxi.

⁵ American State Papers. Indian Affairs, Vol. I, p. 54.

In letters of the Special Indian Commissioners to the Southern Indians. Benjamin Hawkins, Pickens and Martin. Dated Hopewell, January 4, 1786.

"The Chiefs (of the Choctaws) produced their Medals and Commissions and were very desirous of exchanging for those under the United States."⁶

In a conference of the Chiefs of the Cherokee nation with the Secretary of War, Jan. 5, 1792.

(Nenetooyah, or) Bloody Fellow, then presented the Secretary of War with two silver medals. "These medals were presented by Colonel Martin, about four or five years ago, but as some disturbances have since happened, they are now returned, to obtain others from the United States. Medals are valuable to the Cherokees, and when accompanied with speeches, are monuments of friendship to their nation."

(Joseph Martin was one of the four Commissioners sent in 1785 to treat with the Creeks, Cherokees, and other Southern Indians. What these medals were like is not known today.)

Schoolcraft in his Personal Memoirs, p. 294 says:

"Omeeshug, widow of Ningotook of Leech Lake, (during the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825) claimed a medal for her infant son in exchange for a British Medal which had been given up. A medal of the second size was given him."

Mention is made several times in this book of exchanging American for English medals.

The Indians were very proud of their medals, and valued them highly, many were buried with the bodies of their wearers and many more were handed down to their successors and are to this day, in possession of their respective families, frequently being worn by the oldest descendant, or representative, of the original possessor. These facts, together with the practice of exchanging the medals of one government for those of another, when the allegiance of the Indian was correspondingly changed, account to a large extent for the present scarcity of the medals in general and especially of the earliest medals.

The following extracts culled from various references illustrate this point. From the American State Papers, Indian Affairs, page 51:

"Report of the Commissioner's Plenipotentiary of the United States—to the Cherokees and other Nations, Hopewell, January 7, 1786, interviewing the Chickasaws.

"Mingatushka.—The great man of our nation, who wore this medal I show you, is dead, and I am his nephew and a leader. On the death of this great man, he left a daughter, who took care of this medal, and she judged it was proper, when I came, that I should bring it, that you might see it, and know such a thing belonged to our family; and accordingly she and her mother sent it."

"Piomingo.—You see this now (pointing to the medal) it was worn by our great man; he is dead; his daughter sent it for you to see it. I take place, as head, leading warrior of the nation, to treat with all nations."

Page 271. Journal of the Cherokee National Council:

⁶ Also in Knox Papers, Vol. XLVII, p. 138.

“Estanaula Thursday 28th June 1792

The Black Fox.—“The Dragging Canoe has left the world. He was a man of consequence in his country. He was a friend both to his own and the white people. But his brother is still in place; and I mention now in public that I intend presenting him with his deceased brother’s medal: for he promises fair to possess sentiments similar to those of his brother, both with regard to the red and white.”

Page 327. Minutes of information given Governor Blount by James Carey, one of the interpreters of the United States, in the Cherokee Nation:

Carey speaks of the brother of the late Dragging Canoe, who came to Estanaula after the war pipe which he has brought from Detroit and which, when he found it had been destroyed by King Fisher and the Old Prince, declared,—“If the King Fisher was present, he would destroy the medal that had been given him at Philadelphia.” . . . Mr. Shaw presented this fellow, the Dragging Canoe’s brother, sometimes called the Witch Owl’s Son, with a scarlet match coat, laces, a ruffled shirt and some feathers, and a medal. He accepted of all except the medal, offering for apology for not accepting that, that he could not, unless it was offered to him at some public meeting. He then proceeded to tell Mr. Shaw and Carey what valuable presents had been given to him last winter by the British at Detroit, for the use of himself and his brother, the Dragging Canoe, namely, a pair of large and a pair of small arm bands for each, three gorgets for his brother and four for himself. . . .”

Schoolcraft in his “Memoirs,” page 386, gives an interesting account of how a medal may be transmitted from one to another:

“Medal of the third President. During the assemblages at Rice Lake, I observed a lad called Ogeima Geezhick or Chief Day, having a Jefferson Medal around his neck. I called him and his father, and, while inquiring its history, put a new ribbon to it. It was probably given by the late Col. Bolvin, Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, to the Chief called Peesh-a-Peevely of Ottawa Lake. The latter died at his village, an old man, last winter. He gave it to a young man who was killed by the Sioux. His brother having a boy named after him, namely, Ogeima Geezhick, gave it to him.”

In some cases, medals were regarded as charms, and were supposed to possess supernatural powers of protection from danger or sickness. This is illustrated in the story of a chief of the Ute Tribe in Colorado, who wore a medal of President Lincoln in which he took great pride and which he regarded as a talisman that would protect him from all harm. During an encounter with a neighboring tribe, in 1873, a bullet struck this medal, which thereby saved his life. Instead of feeling grateful for the protection it had afforded, he said it was “heap bad medicine,” because it had not manifested the power, which he supposed it possessed of keeping the bullet away from him entirely. He was therefore perfectly willing to dispose of it. This medal, with the bullet still imbedded in it, is now in the collection of The American Numismatic Society.

Nearly eighty years earlier, in the region of Spanish influence, a medal was called a “Great Spirit,” and to it was attributed a wonderful power to punish

wrong doing, as will be seen by the following extract from Trudeau's Journal,⁷ describing life among the Indians in 1795:

"When I had summoned the most important ones from both Cheyenne villages on my arrival here last Spring to announce to them the words of their Spanish Father and to deliver to them the medal, the flag, the letter patent and the present which he sent them, I asked them to choose from among their number, the one whom they deemed most worthy to wear the medal and to be made the great Chief of their nation. They had me give it to a young man whom they called "The Lance" who accepted it and promised to do all the good which had been recommended to him in the letter which his Father, the Chief of the white men, had sent him.

"These newly arrived Cheyenne youths reported to me that this young Chief, far from having followed my advice after taking possession of the medal, flag and letter which came from the great Chief of the White Men, had continued with a wicked heart for strangers, and even for his own people, getting angry and treating them badly on every occasion; that he was the author of a recent murder committed in their village, that of a Sioux, his wife and three children, who were living among them, in spite of the fact that he had promised to live in peace with those of the Sioux village who lived there, and to which belonged this man and his family. They had even eaten and smoked together.

"Instead of maintaining peace with the Mandans and Gros Ventres, he had had their horses stolen. That without doubt the medal, the flag and the letter, who were great spirits, had become angry, for three of his children had died, and what is more, lightning had struck the hut of his own brother who, with his wives, children, dogs and horses tied before the door, had been reduced to ashes."

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS

The medals given during Washington's administration are of oval sheets of silver, provided with raised borders and rings for suspension, the designs being engraved by hand on each one.

1789

1. *Obverse*: A full-length figure of an Indian wearing a head-dress of feathers and a blanket draped about his body; his tomahawk is in the act of falling from his right hand; with his left hand he is receiving a pipe of peace from a female, typifying America in the garb of Minerva, who wears a helmet, coat of mail and a skirt that reaches to the ground; at her left side is a short sword in a sheath and on the ground, a shield and spear. The shield is oval in shape and is adorned with a Medusa head; in the background is a plow; above, G. WASHINGTON PRESIDENT, and, below, the date, 1789.

Reverse: Arms of the United States, eagle with extended wings, shield on breast with thirteen stripes and a plain field, in right talon an olive branch, and, in left, thirteen arrows; above the head, thirteen stars encircled by clouds and rays, and, at the top, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Size 106 x 137 mm., exclusive of the ring for suspension.

Plate 1

This medal, crude in workmanship, shows the initial attempt of our government in producing medals and was undoubtedly made in something of a hurry,

⁷ Journal of Jean Baptiste Trudeau among the Arikara Indians in 1795. Translated by Mrs. H. F. Beauregard. Missouri Historical Society Collections, Vol. IV, No. 1, 1912.

and presumably in very limited numbers as only two specimens are known. Both medals came from the South and were without doubt given to Southern Indians, as a special commission was sent to treat with these Indians in 1789. The first specimen known was obtained by a Union Soldier somewhere in the South during the Civil War. Later it came into the possession of Mr. John F. Noegel of Philadelphia and was sold with his collection in 1915, since which time it has been in the collection of The American Numismatic Society. The second specimen was discovered in Georgia in 1926 and is now in a private collection.

It has been stated that medals were given to the Indians when the Treaty of Fort Harmer was made, but this event took place more than three months before Washington became President. This treaty was the most important Indian event in 1789. What medals, if any, were given on that occasion is not known, but the medal above described certainly could not have been produced at that time. Of course, it might have been given on account of this treaty, at a subsequent date. But as the treaty was effected on the 9th of January, 1789, and Washington did not become President until the 30th of April of that year, the Indians would have had a long wait for their medals which, according to the accounts of such later events as have come down to us, was not the customary procedure in these matters. On the other hand, no medals may have been available at the time the treaty was signed, and their preparation may have been delayed until the President should take office and the government be organized and in running order, under the provisions of the recently adopted constitution. It may also be conjectured that this, and possibly other medals, may have been prepared for use when needed, in 1789, and, as no medals are known bearing the date 1790, used in connection with the following event, in spite of the discrepancy in the date.

The celebrated Creek Chief, Alexander McGillivray, accompanied by twenty-nine lesser chiefs of his nation, visited New York on the 29th of July, 1790. They were entertained by General Knox, the Secretary of War, visited President Washington and met the Governor of the State and other prominent people. The Tammany Society, which was established in May, 1789, made the arrival of these Indians a gala occasion, and entertained them in an elaborate manner.

In connection with this event it is interesting to note a paragraph in the original draft of the treaty with these Creek Indians signed August 17, 1790, by Henry Knox, Secretary of War, and Alexander McGillivray and twenty-three other chiefs.

This rough draft appears several times in the papers of Henry Knox,⁸ once or twice in his own handwriting. The paragraph in question does not appear in the final draft of the treaty itself.

“Questions referred to the Senate in re Creek nation.

“The President of the United States states the following question for the consideration and advice of the Senate”

⁸ Knox Papers, Mass. Historical Society, Boston—Vol. LIII, p. 178; Vol. XXVI, p. 130; Vol. LV, p. 169; Vol. XXVII, p. 70.

ART. 3.

“The United States also agree to allow to each of the great medal chiefs hereinafter named, a commission, a great medal with proper ornaments, and each one hundred dollars annually, for themselves and the other beloved men of their towns respectively—to wit—

Of the Upper Creeks	{ The Chiefs of the Oakfuskies, Tuckabatchies, and the present Tallisee King of the half way house
Of the Lower Creeks	{ The Chief of the Cusitahs and Cowetas.
and the Seminolies	{ The Chief of Micasukie”

1792

On the 13th of March, 1792, a deputation of forty-seven chiefs, representing the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Tuscarora and Stockbridge tribes, arrived at Philadelphia and, between that time and the 30th of April, had a number of conferences with President Washington, the Secretary of War, the Governor of Pennsylvania and others.

The Indian who took the most prominent part in these conferences was the celebrated Seneca orator, Sagoyewatha or Red Jacket, and to him was given a medal, engraved by hand, as was the medal of 1789, but of much better and more elaborate work. The idea conveyed by the 1789 medal was brought out in this one, though the two important figures on the obverse are quite different.

2-A. *Obverse*: In the foreground, to the right, a full-length figure of George Washington in the uniform of a general, his right hand extended toward an Indian who is smoking a pipe of peace, his left hand resting on his sword; an oval medal is on the breast of the Indian, and his tomahawk is on the ground at his feet, having been dropped from his right hand; behind him is a large tree, only the trunk of which is visible, and a small evergreen tree; in the background, a man plowing with a yoke of oxen, and in the distance, low hills and a house; in the exergue, GEORGE WASHINGTON | PRESIDENT | 1792. in three lines. Plate 2

Reverse: Arms of the United States, as on the 1789 medal, except that the eagle holds in his beak a ribbon inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM. Plate 3

The rim which encircles the medal, is about one-eighth of an inch wide, and but slightly thicker than the medal. The ring for suspension is flat and corresponds with the rim. Size, exclusive of ring 127 x 171 mm.

Red Jacket valued his medal very highly, and wore it on all occasions; at his death, which occurred on the 20th of January, 1839, it became the property of his nephew, Sosewah, also known as Chief Johnson, and, when he died, it passed to Donehogawa, better known as Gen. Ely S. Parker, a full-blooded Seneca chief, who had a brilliant career as an officer in the United States Army, having served

through the Civil War on the staff of Gen. Grant. He was brevetted Brigadier-General in 1867. He was appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1869 and resigned in 1871, to practice his profession of civil engineer. He made his home in New York City, and for a number of years spent his summers in Fairfield, Connecticut, where he died, on the 30th of August, 1895. The medal was purchased from his widow and became the property of the Buffalo Historical Society in 1898.

While the current histories of this meeting in Philadelphia, in 1792, do not mention the bestowal of other medals, it is more than likely that others, beside Red Jacket, were favored. Farmer's Brother is known to have possessed a medal,⁹ and, as he was one of the chiefs, representing his tribe at this time, and his medal bears the same date, he probably received it at the same time. There are other medals also dated 1792 which may or may not have been given then.

It has often been supposed that this medal given to Red Jacket in March 1792 was the first of these given out. These engraved oval medals, as a class, are often called Red Jacket medals, chiefly because this one is best known, and the 1789 specimens have been known only in recent years. However, other medals had been given out previously in 1792 to the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. *Vide* pages 7 and 8.

The general description of the Red Jacket medal will apply to those that follow. As each medal was engraved by hand, no two can be found that are alike in every particular, and no attempt will be made to describe such accidental differences as exist among those intended to be exactly alike.

There are, however, nine distinct types, which are numbered 2 to 10 and these occur in different sizes, which are designated by the letters A, B and C. No. 2 is the only type of which all three sizes are known. Each medal of the other types corresponds in size to one of these, and is designated by the corresponding letter.

It would seem to be fair to assume that each type was made in three sizes, that is, three grades, the first grade, or largest medal to go to the chief of greatest importance, and so on down. This can only be proved by the discovery of other medals which have not yet come to light.

It is worthy of notice that the medals of the succeeding presidents from Jefferson to Taylor were issued in three sizes, and the Jefferson medals are mentioned in the Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition as first, second and third grade.

The substitution of Washington for the female figure was undoubtedly in cognizance of the dislike on the part of the Indians of having a woman shown in an exalted position and the appreciation of the fact that much emphasis was placed on the Great White Father. In connection with these engraved medals of Washington, an interesting anecdote is told by Drake,¹⁰ who quotes from an earlier work by Eliot.

⁹ Life and Times of Red Jacket or Sa-go-ye-wat-ha, by William L. Stone, New York, 1841. p. 418.

¹⁰ The Aboriginal Races of North America. By Samuel G. Drake, xvth ed., New York, 1880, p. 43.

“A Serious Question.—About 1794, an officer presented a Western chief with a medal, on one side of which President Washington was presented as armed with a sword, and on the other, an Indian was seen in the act of burying the hatchet. The chief at once saw the wrong done his countrymen, and very wisely asked, ‘Why does not the President bury his sword, too?’ ”

It is interesting to note that the head-dress of the Indian, as shown on the medal of the largest size, consists of five ostrich feathers, three upright and two drooping behind his head, while on the two smaller sizes there are but four feathers, two of which are upright and two drooping, it evidently being the idea of the engraver that the largest medal denoted the highest rank and therefore should show an additional feather. As the later medals are copies of the earlier ones, the same arrangement of feathers obtains in them all, the largest having one more feather than those of the smaller sizes. The feathers used by all Indians, from the earliest known to those of the present time, have been stiff feathers from the tail or wings of native birds, such as the eagle, wild turkey and others. Imported ostrich feathers were occasionally given to the Indians, who prized them highly, which might account for their appearance as the head-dress of the Indian on these medals.

2B. The Red Jacket Medal is the largest known of the date 1792. A medal of similar design, size 104 x 149 mm., was found in a secret compartment of the desk of Volckert Petrus Douw a number of years ago. Mr. Douw was born in 1720, and appointed Indian Commissioner in 1774. He died in 1801. While Indian Commissioner, he resided at Albany, so it is fair to assume that he obtained the medal from the Indian to whom it was originally given, and who probably belonged to one of the tribes constituting the Six Nations which at that time resided in New York State. The medal is still in possession of descendants of Mr. Duow who now live in Virginia.

Plate 4

2C. A similar, but still smaller medal, Size 81 x 124 mm., is in the Ontario County Historical Society, Canandaigua, New York. This originally belonged to Farmer's Brother, a well-known Seneca Chief who was one of the delegation that accompanied Red Jacket to Philadelphia in 1792.

3B. Of similar design to the last, but by a different engraver and treated in an entirely different manner. The Indian wears on his breast a gorget instead of the usual medal and the tomahawk is of a more military character. The trunks of the two trees are much thinner than on any of the other medals and very crooked, and on the larger tree trunk, a little above the Indian's head, are the leaves of what is possibly a twining grape vine. The inscription is in three lines, GEORGE WASHINGTON | PRESIDENT | 1792. The reverse is much more nearly like the last. The rim and ring for suspension are also similar to the other medals of this date. Size 105 x 149 mm.

Plate 4

This medal was obtained by a Union soldier during the Civil War, while on a scouting expedition, accompanied by another soldier, in the neighborhood of Fort Sill, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. He was attacked by an Indian wearing this medal, whom he killed. He kept the medal which is still preserved in his family. The Indian who wore it, probably obtained it by inheritance or force. His name, or the tribe to which he belonged, is not known.

A gorget was originally the collar piece of a suit of armor, first called a gorget about 1480. When metal armor ceased to be a part of military equipment, it continued to be used as a distinctive badge for officers, being in the form of a crescent usually of silver, fastened around the neck by a cord or ribbon attached to the two points, and resting on the breast a few inches below the chin.¹¹

It is worthy of note that, as the gorget was used as a part of the uniform of officers only, the Indian wearing it must have received it as designating rank in the military establishment of the government giving it. Therefore this medal has to a greater extent than others of this date, a military character. It is the only one at present known of 1792, which was obtained in the west. The three medals just described were originally given to Indians of New York State, and the probability is that the two following also belonged to Indians of eastern tribes.

4C. Two other medals of 1792 are known to the writer. These are similar to No. 2 except that the inscription on the obverse is in two lines, instead of three, and the tail of the figure nine in the date is extended so as to encircle the entire date—GEORGE WASHINGTON | PRESIDENT 1792. One of these medals, size 81 x 124 mm., is in the collection of The American Numismatic Society. Plate 5

The other, size 81 x 127 mm., when last seen several years ago, belonged to a resident of New York State, whose present address is not known. Nothing is recorded regarding the original recipient of either of these two medals.

1793

The medals of this year are of four types, two without any mark to designate the engraver or silversmith, who produced them, and two with the initials J.L. and J.R. in the shape of a small counterstamp or hall-mark.

5A. Of the largest size, 127 x 173 mm., with five feathers in the Indian's head-dress and the date on the same line with the word *President*. It was obtained by trade, from a woman who was an Indian trader in Missouri, about eighty years ago, and was purchased in 1914 by Mr. Stephen H. P. Pell of New York, who presented it to The American Numismatic Society in 1916, where it now is. Plates 6 and 7

6A. Of the largest size, 125 x 175 mm. Similar to 5A except that the tail of the 9 encircles the date, as in 4C. This medal is in the Joseph G. Mitchelson Collection at the Connecticut State Library, Hartford. It was obtained in Missouri, a number of years ago, from a woman who claimed descent from the original owner. Mr. Mitchelson either did not get the name of the original Indian, or, if he did, he left no record of it with the medal.

6C. Of the smallest size, 81 x 124 mm. It is in the Chicago Historical Society; and is similar to the last.

The foregoing medals were apparently the work of several engravers. Who these engravers were, is not known to the writer. In 1789, the seat of government was in New York City. Late in the following year it was moved to Philadelphia where it remained until some years after the end of Washington's administration.

¹¹ Indian Use of the Silver Gorget, by Arthur Woodward, Indian Notes, Vol. III, No. 4, 1926. Pub. by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York.

While it cannot be stated positively, it is exceedingly likely that local silversmiths of New York or Philadelphia were employed to prepare these medals.

The medals of 1792 show great improvement over the ones made in 1789. 2A, 2B and the obverse of 2C were evidently the work of the same engraver. The reverse of 2C resembles more closely types 4, 5 and 6 and may have been done by the engraver of those medals. 3B shows a marked difference in the obverse design, which is duly noted in the description of the medal, the treatment of the trees is also quite different and there are other variations which, I am inclined to think, would indicate a different engraver. 4C, 5A and B and 6A and C are no doubt the work of the same engraver.

7B. Same design at last, but the engraving not so good. The rim is also similar, but the ring for suspension is quite different, being oval in shape, with the longest dimension horizontal instead of upright, and a simple ornament at each side. The reverse is also similar in design, but the treatment is quite different; at the bottom is a small stamp, or hall-mark bearing the letters J L. Size 105 x 144 mm. This medal is in the Oklahoma Historical Society. It was obtained by an Agency trader, over forty years ago, from an Indian of the Sac and Fox Tribe. Its earlier history is unknown.

Plate 8

7C. Similar to last except that the date 1793 is below the word PRESIDENT, and larger in size; from the position of the words it would appear that it was originally intended to put the date on the second line, in the same position as on all the other 1793 medals, but the space reserved for it being insufficient, it was, as an after thought, placed below. The stamp with the engraver's initials, J L, is on the obverse. This medal is in poor condition, having been bent and straightened out again, and the rim and ring for suspension are missing. The size is 81 x 121 mm., which would be slightly larger if the rim had not been removed. From the W. W. C. Wilson collection, now in the collection of The American Numismatic Society. Its early history is unknown.

The style of the engraving on the last two medals is decidedly different from that of any of the other oval medals. The technique is much less elaborate, and they appear to have been done by a less skillful engraver, and without the careful attention to details that is shown on the others. The three best known Philadelphia silversmiths, who flourished about this time, and whose initials were J. L., were—(1) Joseph Lownes, who usually stamped his work with his full name, but might possibly have used his initials either if the government had objected to more being placed on the medal, or if he had considered it more appropriate to make his stamp inconspicuous on such small work where it would have had to occupy so prominent a place; (2) John Leacock, who advertised as early as 1751 but was still working in 1796, and whose stamp was I.L. in either a rectangle or an oval; (3) John Le Tellier, working in 1770, whose mark was I.L.T. As the national Capitol was in Philadelphia in 1795, it would seem more likely that government work of this kind should be executed there, rather than be sent to J. Lynch of Baltimore, John Burt Lyng of New York or Joseph Loring of Boston. Of the three Philadelphia silversmiths, the presumption would be in favor of Joseph Lownes, who was born in 1754, and advertised himself from 1780 to 1792 as located at 130 South Front

Street, Philadelphia. Of course, there is also the possibility that the J. L. may stand for some unknown engraver, who was never considered a silversmith, but simply plied his trade, accepting such work as was committed to him.

The later medals of 1793 and all of 1795 were the work of Joseph Richardson of Philadelphia, who stamped his initials J.R. or I.R. in a small square punch mark, near the bottom, on either the obverse or reverse of each medal. The design of the medals, types 2 and 5, is closely copied. The inscription and date, on the obverse, are, in each case, in two lines GEORGE WASHINGTON | PRESIDENT 1793 or 1795. The rim is very narrow and much higher, and the ring for suspension is at right angles with the medal.

Joseph Richardson, belonged to an old Quaker family of silversmiths. His grandfather, Francis Richardson, who was born in New York in 1681, was taken to Philadelphia when nine years old and lived there until his death in 1729. There still exist many evidences of the latter's handiwork, marked with the initials F. R. in a heart-shaped punch mark.

Francis Richardson's son, Joseph Richardson (Senior), was born in 1711, married Mary Allen in 1748 and worked at his profession until his death in 1784. His shop was on the west side of Front Street below Walnut.

Joseph Richardson (Junior), son of the latter, was born in 1752 and advertised as a silversmith in 1777 and at later periods. On the death of his father, he and his brother Nathaniel took over the shop on Front Street, and are noted in the Philadelphia directories from 1785 to 1791. On March 12, 1795, he was appointed assayer at the United States Mint, which office he held until his death in March, 1831.¹²

8A. A medal of the largest size, 128 x 174 mm., dated 1793, is in the collection of the Chicago Historical Society. The engraver's initials, J R, are on the reverse. The face and hair of Washington show quite different treatment from that of the smaller medals of this date which bear the same initials, and are, of course, by the same engraver. As is usual on the medals of the largest size the Indian's head-dress consists of five ostrich feathers. Plate 9

A similar medal is still in the possession of a descendant of the Chief to whom it was originally given, who resides in Canada. It is 127 x 171 mm. in size. The engraver's initials, JR, are on the reverse.

The two medals in the Chicago Historical Society, 6C and 8A, were a part of the Gunther Collection. Accompanying them was the following parchment document:

GEORGE WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME: KNOW YE, That
the nations of Indians called the *Kaskaskias*—Inhabiting the town of Kaskaskia and

¹² Illustrated History of the United States Mint, by George G. Evans, Philadelphia, 1885, p. 118.

other towns, villages and lands of the same community, are, in their persons, towns, villages, lands, hunting grounds and other rights and property in the peace and under the protection of the United States of America: And all persons and citizens of the United States are hereby warned not to commit any injury, trespass or molestation whatever on the persons, lands, hunting grounds or other rights or property of the said Indians; and they and all others are in like manner forbidden to purchase, accept agree or treat for, with the said Indians, directly or indirectly, the title or occupation of any lands held or claimed by them; and I do hereby call upon all persons in authority under United States, and all citizens thereof in their several capacities, to be aiding and assisting to the prosecution and punishment according to law of all persons who shall be found offending in the premises.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the United States this Seventh Day of May in the year of our Lord, One thousand and seven hundred and ninety three and of the Independence of the United States of America the seventeenth.

G. WASHINGTON

By the President

Th. Jefferson.

Endorsed on the back as follows:

Illinois Territory

Whereas Babtiste Ducoigne chief of the Kaskaskia tribe is dead leaving Louis Jefferson Ducoigne his son and heir, I, Ninian Edwards Governor of the Illinois Territory and Superintendent of Indian affairs within the same—having great confidence in the friendship and integrity of the said Louis Jefferson Ducoigne do hereby constitute and appoint him great and principal chief of the Kaskaskia tribe aforesaid, as a testimony of which I have this day delivered to the said Louis Jefferson Ducoigne the medals appropriated to the great and principal chief as aforesaid. Given under my hand the 7 July 1817.

NINIAN EDWARDS.

8-B. Of the middle size, the writer knows of three medals of this date, all of nearly the same size. One of these—size, 112 x 155 mm., with the engraver's stamp, JR, on the reverse, was in the collection of William H. Hunter, of Toronto, Canada, which was sold in Philadelphia in 1920. The name of the present owner is not known.

Another medal, with the engraver's stamp, JR, on the observe, which measures 105 x 149 mm., is in the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia. Plate 10

This piece together with a medal of the Treaty of Greenville, was received by that Society, March 18th, 1889, as a gift from Mr. Charles Caleb Cresson of Philadelphia, who purchased them, September 29th, 1877, from Jane Sarahas, a granddaughter of Tarhe, a Wyandot chief, to whom the two medals were originally awarded.

Tarhe, or The Crane, who was also known as King Crane, was born at Detroit, in 1742 and died at Cranetown, near Upper Sandusky, Ohio, November, 1818. In 1790 he rescued Miss Peggy Fleming, a white woman, from a band of Cherokee Indians who had planned to torture her to death on the following day.¹³ He was a

¹³ Biography and History of the Indians of North America. by Samuel G. Drake. Eleventh edition. Boston, 1851, p. 563.

signer of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, and from that time until his death was a loyal friend to the Americans.

The third medal, the exact size of which cannot be given as the rim has been removed, but which measures 105 x 149 mm. in its present condition, was in the collection of Clarence S. Bement, of Philadelphia, which was sold in 1916. It was acquired by Mr. James W. Ellsworth of New York, who sold it, together with his collection, to a New York dealer in 1923. The medal is now in the possession of a collector in St. Louis.

1795

No medals have come to light bearing the date 1794, and with the year 1795 the issue of these large oval hand-engraved medals appears to have come to an end. If any exist bearing later dates, they are still unknown. All the known medals of 1795, except the Treaty of Greenville medal, which is entirely different, bear the stamp of Joseph Richardson. The later ones are slightly larger and bear the letters, I.R.

9C. Similar to 8B except the date, 1795, and the stars above the eagle's head, and the stripes on the United States shield, on the reverse, which are increased to fifteen. Size 81 x 120 mm. This medal is in the collection of Indian relics of Daniel B. Dyer, a well known Indian Agent, which is now in the museum of the Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Plate 11

Two new States, Vermont and Kentucky, having been admitted to the Union, an Act of Congress, approved January 13, 1794, provided "that from and after the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white; and that the Union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field." On April 4, 1818, this was again changed by Act of Congress, "that from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white on a blue field. That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission."

These changes applied to the flag only. The number of stripes on the shield, in the United States coat of Arms, was not effected by them, still the engraver of this medal evidently took it for granted that the fifteen stripes on the flag should be repeated on the shield. The same number of stripes are on the shield on the Treaty of Greenville medal, which is described later.

10B. *Obverse*, similar to last.

Reverse, similar except that the United States shield contains but thirteen stripes. There are, however, fifteen stars around the eagle's head. Size 102 x 146 mm. Copper, heavily plated with silver. As far as is known, all other medals of this series are solid silver. This medal was presented to the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., by Mr. John W. Caldwell, of Clarksonville, Tennessee.

Plate 11

A medal of similar design, dated 1795, size, 102 x 149 mm., is in the collection of Mr. John W. Garrett of Baltimore. It was originally given to Hojiagede, or Fish Carrier, a well-known Chief of the Cayuga Tribe.

A third example, size, 106 x 149 mm., was in the collection of Mr. William H. Hunter, of Toronto, Canada, which was sold in Philadelphia in 1920. It is stated in the catalogue of the collection that the original owner of this medal was Mississinewa, a chief of the Wabash Miamis. Mississinewa is the name of a river which empties into the Wabash, in Miami County, Indiana. A Miami Indian village of the same name was formerly at the junction of the two rivers, but was destroyed in 1812. I have found no record of a Miami chief of that name. Mishikinakwa, or Little Turtle, was a celebrated Chief of the Miamis, and one of the signers of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. It is possible that the two names may refer to the same person.

The engraver's stamp, I.R., in a slightly larger punch, is on the reverse of each of these three medals.

This completes, as far as our present knowledge goes, the oval, engraved Indian Peace Medals of this design. There remains one more oval, engraved medal of 1795, which is entirely different and refers to a particular treaty only.

The Treaty of Greenville, which was signed on the 3rd of August, 1795, was the most important Indian event of that year. It was negotiated by Gen. Anthony Wayne, at Greenville, Ohio, with representatives of the following twelve tribes: Chippewa, Delaware, Eel River, Kaskaskia, Kickapoo, Miami, Ottawa, Piankashaw, Potawatomi, Shawnee, Wea and Wyandot.

Medals were given at the conclusion of this treaty. The account in the American State Papers, Indian Affairs, Vol. I, p. 580, is as follows:—

After signing the Treaty of Greenville on August 3rd, various formalities, etc., were carried on for several days. On August 7th the nations again assembled and many goods and presents were distributed.

The General (Anthony Wayne) arose and said:—

"Listen! all you Nations present. I have hitherto addressed you as brothers. I now adopt you all, in the name of the President and Fifteen great Fires of America, as their children, and you are so accordingly. The medals which I shall have the honor to deliver to you, you will consider as presented by the hands of your father, the Fifteen Fires of America. These you will hand down to your children's children, in commemoration of this day—a day in which the United States of America gives peace to you and all your Nations, and receives you and them under the protecting wings of her eagle." (Council adjourned.)

(The Medals were delivered August 8th, also silver ornaments.)

These medals must have been the regular medals dated 1795, described above. Although the majority of the medals of 1795 in existence today were undoubtedly given on the occasion of this treaty, others were distributed as well, as Fish Carrier, the Cayuga Chief, whose tribe was not concerned in this treaty, had one of this date.

There is, however, in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, a medal of 1795 which refers directly to the Treaty of Greenville.

11. An oval plate of silver without any raised rim or attachment for suspension, size, 79x109 mm., engraved by hand, *obverse* and *reverse* the same. An eagle with wings spread, shield on breast, with fifteen stripes and plain field; in right talon, a branch of laurel, and, in the left, fifteen arrows; in his beak, a ribbon inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM; eagle's head encircled by rays, as on the foregoing medals, but no clouds or stars; below, a scroll inscribed TREATY of GREENVILLE 3rd August 1795; around the edge, an elaborately engraved border. Plate 12

There does not appear to be any record of the special purpose for which this medal was issued. It certainly could not have been made until some time after the treaty was signed at Greenville, Ohio, as it bears the exact date, and this date could not have been known in Philadelphia until the treaty reached there, which, with the slow modes of travel in vogue at that period, would have been considerably later. We do know that medals were distributed to the chiefs five days after the treaty was signed.

This medal originally belonged to a Wyandot chief, named Tarhe, or The Crane, who was one of the signers of the Treaty of Greenville. It was purchased from his granddaughter in 1877, and presented to The Pennsylvania Historical Society in 1889, together with a medal of 1793, previously described.

From the fact that this medal, which is the only specimen known at the present time, was given to an Indian who already had one of the large medals—dated two years earlier—it seems not unlikely that it was given only to those Indians, who were signers of this treaty, and who had previously received the regular medal of 1793, while the regular medal of 1795 was given to all the others.

1796

An Act of Congress regularizing intercourse with the Indians was signed by President Washington May 19th, 1796. In it was the following paragraph:—

“That in order to promote civilization among the friendly Indian tribes, and to secure the continuance of this friendship, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to cause them to be furnished with useful domestic animals and implements of husbandry, and with goods or money, as he shall judge proper.”

In President Washington's message to Congress, December 7th, 1796, the following paragraph would indicate action under this authority:—

“Measures calculated to insure a continuance of the friendship of the Indians, and to preserve peace along the extent of our interior frontier, have been digested and adopted. In the framing of these, care has been taken to guard, on the one hand, our advanced settlements from the predatory incursions of these unruly individuals, who cannot be restrained by their tribes; and, on the other hand, to protect the rights secured to the Indians by treaty; to draw them nearer to the civilized state; and to inspire them with correct conceptions of the power, as well as justice, of the government.”¹⁴

¹⁴ The Writings of George Washington, being his Correspondence, Addresses, Messages and Other Papers, Official and Private, by Jared Sparks, New York, 1847, Vol. XII, p. 65.

It is most probable that one of these "measures" had to do with the preparation of medals depicting the advantages of a more civilized mode of living and known as the WASHINGTON SEASON MEDALS which, though dated 1796 were not ready for distribution until late in 1798, over one year after the close of Washington's administration.

These consist of a set of three medals, struck in both silver and copper, made in England by order of James McHenry, the Secretary of War, who wrote to Rufus King, the American Minister to England, under date of October 10th, 1796, authorizing him to arrange for the production of silver and copper medals for presentation to Indians.

Col. John Trumbull, the well-known artist, was at that time in London, and was studying art under Benjamin West. Mr. King requested him to make sketches of designs for these medals, which he accordingly did, and transmitted the sketches to Mr. King on August 8, 1797, with the following letter:

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure after so long delay to enclose you slight sketches of three subjects for medals, in conformity to the request of the President as expressed to you by the Secretary of War.

No. 1 alludes to the raising of cattle—a cow licking a young calf—sheep and a lamb sucking—a man in the character of a shepherd watching them—a small house and trees in the distance.

No. 2—A man sowing wheat—in the distance another person ploughing—a small house and inclosures—characterize the first steps in agriculture.

No. 3—The inside of a house—a woman spinning—another weaving—an infant in the cradle rocked by another child somewhat larger—is meant to convey an idea of domestic tranquility and employment.

I have on all put the initials of the United States of America on the face of the medals; on the reverse these words; "Second Presidency of George Washington, MDCCXCVI."

The designs have been seen by Mr. West and have his approbation. They are very slight but I believe sufficient for the excellent workmen whom Mr. Bolton employs.

I am, etc.

(Signed) JOHN TRUMBULL.¹⁵

The medals were struck by Bolton & Watt of Birmingham, England, the dies being cut by C. H. Kuchler, a Belgian artist, from Col. Trumbull's sketches.

12. *Obverse*, described as No. 1 in Col. Trumbull's letter. Signed, in very small letters, at the right side on the base of the design, C. H. KÜCHLER. F., In Exergue: U.S.A.

Reverse. Inscription in five lines: SECOND | PRESIDENCY | OF | GEO. WASHINGTON | MDCCXCVI, encircled by a wreath of Oak and Laurel. Silver and Copper, size 45 mm.

Plate 12

13. *Obverse*, described as No. 2 in Col. Trumbull's letter, signed as last, but on left side KÜCHLER. Exergue as last.

¹⁵ Some New Light on the Washington Season Medals, by Daniel Parish, Jr., Proceedings of The American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, 1894-1896, New York, 1896, p. 86.

Reverse, as last, the same reverse die being used for all three medals. Silver and Copper, 45 mm. Plate 12

14. *Obverse*, described as No. 3 in Col. Trumbull's letter. In small letters as on No. 12, C.H.K. FC. Exergue as last.

Reverse, as last. Silver and Copper, size 45 mm. Plate 12

The original order was for seven hundred medals, five hundred to be in silver and two hundred in copper, of which all but fifty-one silver and twenty-one copper were to be pierced for suspension. As finally issued, they were provided with a small loop instead of being pierced. In July, 1798, two boxes, containing three hundred and twenty-six silver medals were shipped to the United States.¹⁶ Copper medals were also shipped, either on the same vessel or soon after, but there appears to be no record as to how many, nor of subsequent shipments of either silver or copper. The total number of medals actually delivered is not known, and the number of proofs, without the loop, is also unknown. A fine set of proofs in silver, which had never left England, was obtained by an American collector, some years ago, and is now in the Museum of The American Numismatic Society.

There appears to have been a considerable distribution of these medals during the presidency of John Adams and even later. A paragraph in the Journal of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition under date of August 17th, 1805, is as follows:

"We then distributed our presents. To Cameahwait we gave a medal of the small size, with the likeness of President Jefferson, and on the reverse a figure of hands clasped with a pipe and tomahawk; to this was added a uniform coat, a shirt, a pair of scarlet leggins, a carrot of tobacco, and some small articles. Each of the other chiefs received a small medal struck during the presidency of General Washington, a shirt, handkerchief, leggins, a knife, and some tobacco. Medals of the same sort were also presented to the young warriors, who, though not chiefs, were promising youths, and very much respected in the tribe."¹⁷

Cameahwait was a chief of the Shoshonees, a tribe living at that time, in what is now Lewis and Clarke County, Montana. In Coues' History of the Lewis and Clark Expeditions, a foot-note states that on May 10, 1806 an Indian was presented with "one of the sewing medals struck during the presidency of Washington."¹⁸ This is evidently a misprint, and should be sowing referring to the medal described as No. 13.

No medals were issued for presentation to the Indians during the administration of John Adams. The Indian Peace Medals bearing his portrait were issued a number of years after, and will be described later.

1801

Thomas Jefferson became President in 1801 and all of his Indian medals bear

¹⁶ Parish, p. 86.

¹⁷ History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clarke, by Paul Allen & Archibald McVickar, New York, 1844, Vol. 1, p. 320.

¹⁸ History of the Expedition of Lewis and Clark. . . . Edited by Elliott Coues, New York, 1893, Vol. III, p. 1003.

that date. They were issued in three sizes, the more important the Indian, the larger was the medal presented.

15. *Obverse*: Half-length bust of President Jefferson, in the costume of the period, facing left. Legend, TH. JEFFERSON PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. A.D. 1801.

Reverse: In the centre, clasped hands, the one to the right, with metal wrist-band such as was frequently worn by Indian chiefs, and the one to the left, with the braided cuff of a military officer; above, a tomahawk and calumet, or peace pipe, crossed; inscription in three lines, PEACE | AND | FRIENDSHIP. Plate 13

Made of two silver shells, struck from dies, united by a collar; ring for suspension at the top; size, exclusive of ring, 105 mm.; in the collection of The American Numismatic Society. Different specimens vary slightly in size, which is not surprising considering the way in which they are constructed. A second medal, in the same collection, measures only 101 mm., and the ring is attached in a different manner.¹⁹

16. Same, size 77 mm.

17. Same, size 55 mm. A second specimen measures 54 mm.

18. Same as No. 15, except that it is formed of two copper shells and collar; size, 105 mm. The only known specimen in this metal is in the collection of The American Numismatic Society.

19. Same as No. 16 but struck solid, in silver, pierced for suspension, size, 76 mm. This is the only solid silver medal of this design which has come to the knowledge of the writer. It has the appearance of a genuine medal struck for the Indians, but evidently at some later date.

The Collection of The American Numismatic Society contains a medal like No. 16, but struck solid, in copper. This is also pierced for suspension and the original leather thong, by which it was suspended around the neck of the Indian, is still attached to it and the leather bag in which it was kept when not displayed, accompanies it. The same collection also contains a medal of the largest size, 105 mm., struck in pewter, solid, and pierced with a square hole, as though a nail had been driven through it. This medal was dug up somewhere in the neighborhood of the Missouri River a number of years ago, and in texture and condition is not unlike some of the fur-traders' medals that were given to Indians in that section in 1843 and later.

Two small pewter medals, sizes, 52 and 50 mm. are in the collection of Mr. Robert James Eidlitz of New York. These appear to be of about the same age as the large pewter medal just described, but, as neither of them are pierced or provided with any attachment for suspension, it is not likely that they were ever in the hands of any Indians. The dies for the Jefferson medals, as well as those for the medals of James Madison, were the work of Jacob Reich, a native of Germany, who was employed as an assistant by Robert Scot, the engraver for the United States Mint.

Many of the medals of Jefferson were given to Indians during the Lewis and Clarke expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific coast, 1804 to 1806. Medals are mentioned in the Journal of this Expedition as among the articles taken for pre-

¹⁹ Unless otherwise indicated, the medals after Washington are all struck pieces in silver.

sentation to the Indians. Under date of August 1, 1804, it is stated that a medal and flag were given to a "Grand Chief;" to other chiefs, medals of the "Second Grade;" and to inferior chiefs, medals of the "Third Grade."²⁰ Certificates to accompany medals are mentioned under dates of August 30 and 31 of the same year. One of these certificates, together with the medal, smallest size, that went with it, is in the collection of Mr. Henry E. Huntington, of Los Angeles, California. It reads as follows:

THOMAS JEFFERSON
PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

From the powers vested in us by the above authority: To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Know ye, that from the special confidence reposed by us in the sincere and unalterable attachment of War Charpa the Sticker, a Warrior of the Soues NATION to the UNITED STATES, as also from the abundant proofs given by him of his amicable disposition to cultivate peace, harmony, and good neighbourhood with the said States, and the citizens of the same; we do by the authority vested in us, require and charge, all citizens of the United States, all Indian Nations, in treaty with the same, and all other persons whomsoever, to receive, acknowledge, and treat the said War Charpa the Sticker in the most friendly manner, declaring him to be the friend and ally of the said States; the government of which will at all times be extended to his protection, so long as he does acknowledge the authority of the same.

Having signed with our hands and affixed our seals this thirty-first day of August, 180 four.

M. Lewis, Capt.
1st U.S. regt. Infy. (Seal)
Wm. Clark, Cptn on
an Epd. for N.W. Discy. (Seal)

The presentation of other medals and certificates, on a number of different occasions, is also recorded in the Journal of the Expedition. The Indians who received documents of this character usually folded them and kept them in envelopes made of skin. These they carried on their persons until the papers were worn out and fell to pieces, and, as a consequence, very few certificates or other papers of this kind have survived.

Following President Jefferson, we have a series of medals uniform as to size, and with the same reverse, bearing the portrait of each president from James Madison to Zachary Taylor, with the exception of William Henry Harrison. The reverse dies of the three Madison medals were used until 1846, when new dies were made. Most of the medals are of silver and pierced for suspension. Copper or bronze ones occasionally reached the Indians, though most of those struck in copper were simply proofs or restrikes made from time to time for sale to visitors

²⁰ Allen & McVickar, Vol. I, p. 69.

at the U. S. Mint. These medals of all the presidents, including William Henry Harrison, may still be obtained at the Mint, without holes, in the present style of finish with a mat surface.

The following letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of War, dated May 5, 1825, is of interest as showing the customs attending the presentation of medals and flags to the Indians. The giving of medals in exchange for those previously bestowed by representatives of other governments was a policy adopted by resolution of the Continental Congress in 1786, and had been the custom of the British Government for many years before that time.

Department of War,
Off. Ind. Affairs,
May 5th, 1825.

To
The Honble.
The Secretary of War.
Sir,

I have the honor respectfully to state that it is the custom of the Department and has been since the days of General Washington, to have medals of the President of the U: States struck, for the purpose of being presented, from time to time to Indians of distinction and influence as the policy of the Government may indicate it proper to do so.

It is usual to have three sizes, the largest to be presented to chiefs of the highest distinction and most influence; and the smaller to those next in grade. I accompany this with one of the second size, of our late President, Monroe, as a specimen. The Department of War having referred the superintendence of the trust of having those medals struck to me, (being at that time Superintendent of the Indian Trade), I addressed a letter to William Jones, Esqr., of Philadelphia, requesting him to recommend an artist. He named, in terms of strong approbation, Moritz Fürst. I employed him. He came to Washington, and was introduced by me to the President, who made the necessary arrangements for Mr. Fürst to execute the outlines, in the President's House, when, having done this, he returned to Philadelphia, and executed the remainder of the work under the eye of Mr. John Vaughn, and, perhaps, at the Mint. I constituted Mr. Vaughn the agent to receive the medals, and pay the price agreed upon.

My object in referring to the subject at this time is, respectfully, to request your authority to have a suitable number of medals of Mr. Adams struck, and if you please by the same artist who is now in New York. The medal which accompanies this is proof enough of his skill; and the sooner the work is done the better, as it is not the custom to distribute medals except they bear, at the time of presentation, the likeness of the then President,—whom the Indians claim for their "Great Father." I think it highly probable that they will be required by the time they can be finished, even were the work commenced at this time.

It is the practice of our agents, and especially those on our North Western Frontier, to take medals of the King from Indians who receive them from British Traders, in which case they always present another, of their "Great Father." So with flags. The British Standards are taken from them, and American given in their stead. Our relations reaching toward the Spanish lines, in the direction of Santa Fe, agents in pursuing the same policy will find it necessary to exchange medals of the Spanish Monarch

with the Indians in that quarter; and it is somewhat essential to have them early, that such an interchange may attend upon the first intercourse.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully, Yr. Obt. St.,

Thos L. McKenney.

Approved by the Sy. of War,
verbally, 9th of May, 1825.

T. L. McKenney.

Silver gorgets were also much prized by the Indians, as the following request by the Indian Agent at St. Peters, now located in the State of Minnesota, would indicate:

Washington, March 3d, 1832.

Sir,

I am anxious to obtain the following marks for the Indians of my agency viz., two large medals, six 2d and ten 3d sizes do., also thirty six Gordgets and ten common flags. The Gordgets would be more acceptable were they to be fashioned after those introduced formerly by the British government with the difference only of the eagle engraved upon each. The President directed a portion of the above articles to be furnished two years since, but there were none at that time in the office of Indian Affairs.

I have the honor to be, with highest respect, Sir,

Your Obt. Servt., Law Taliaferro,

Indian Agent at St. Peters.

Hon. Lewis Cass,

Secy-of War, Washington.

While the custom of giving only the medals of the president who was in office at the time of presentation, was usually followed, in some cases, medals of former presidents were used. As a case in point, ten medals of James Monroe and seven of Andrew Jackson were delivered to an Indian Agent in 1832, Andrew Jackson being president at that time:—

Department of War,
Office of Indian Affairs,
March 17, 1832.

Received seventeen medals, seven having upon them the impression of Genl. Jackson, and ten of them having the impression of James Monroe. The medals being of the following description, viz—

One of the largest size,	1
Six of the middle size,	6
Ten of the smallest size	10

—
17

Law Taliaferro, Indian Agent at St. Peters.

High Wolf—also known as High Back Wolf—a celebrated Cheyenne Chief, was in Washington, between 1828 and 1830, and, while there, received a medal of James Monroe. John Quincy Adams was president up to the spring of 1829, when

he was succeeded by Andrew Jackson—another instance of the giving of a medal of a former president.

The government has also given duplicate medals when the originals have been destroyed:—

Wanted for the Senecas:

1 Silver medal, the largest and best,	{	These articles were lately destroyed by fire in the burning of the Chief's House,—as the Nation is about to move westward, others are wanted to replace them.
1 Silver pipe		
1 Flag of the U.S.		

4 Others Flags	{	For Mohawks, Shawanoese, & Delawares, who are going westward from Ohio in the present year.
4 Medals		

John Johnston, Ind. Agent.

Washington City, Feby. 9, 1829.

To Col. Th. L. McKenney, Indian Office.

Resptfully recommended.

Thos. L. McKenney,
Off. In. Affairs,
Feby. 10, 1829.

1809

20. *Obverse*: Half-length clothed bust of President Madison facing left; a fur cloak, or robe, draped around the bust below the shoulders. Legend JAMES MADISON PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. A.D. 1909. Plate 14

Reverse: In center, clasped hands, the one to the left, with the braided cuff of a military officer, the other, with bare wrist. Inscription, in three lines, PEACE | AND | FRIENDSHIP, size, 76 mm.

The reverse of all subsequent medals, up to and including those of Zachary Taylor are the same as the above. Consequently the description will not be repeated.

21. Same, but without the fur cloak, size, 62 mm.

22. Same as No. 21, size 51 mm.

1817

23. *Obverse*: Half-length clothed bust of James Monroe, facing right; fur cloak as No. 20. Legend, JAMES MONROE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. A.D. 1817. Signed in small letters, FÜRST. F., size 76 mm.

24. Same, but without the fur cloak, size 62 mm.

25. Same as No. 24, size 51 mm. Plate 14

1825

26. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President John Quincy Adams, facing right, fur cloak as No. 20. Legend, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; below the bust, 1825, size 76 mm.

27. Same, but without the fur cloak, size 62 mm.

28. Same as No. 27, size 51 mm. Plate 14

Moritz Fürst was born in 1782, near Pressburg in Hungary, and came to the

United States in 1807. The obverse dies for the medals of Presidents Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Jackson, and Van Buren were cut by him. On May, 1825, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs wrote to Mr. Fürst, asking him to prepare the dies for the medals of John Quincy Adams, and received the following reply:

“New York, May 14th, 1825.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 9th inst. which you honored me with, I take the liberty to inform you that I am willing to execute the dies for the President Adams, at the same terms as those which I had the honour to engrave for the President Monroe medals, and I am willing to depart for Washington on that business as soon you will be pleased to direct me and I agree with your advise to take the likeness in person, if it should be agreeable to the President. I will try my endeavors as to give satisfaction. As the dies with the reverse are in the Mint, therefore, you will be pleased to direct the coiner in the Mint to forge and turn the dies to the same size as the reverse dies are.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servant, Moritz Fürst.

Thomas L. McKenney, Esqr.,
Chief Inspector of Ind. Affairs.”

The likeness not proving satisfactory, after the exchange of several letters, Mr. Fürst wrote as follows:

“New York, Sept. 23d, 1825.

Sir:

In relation to yours of the 19th inst. permit me to ask you if it is your wish to alter these points of the features as you explain to me; or shall I engrave new dies over again. You say the upper lip projects over the lower lip. Of course I must bring the lower lip a little more out, to correspond with the explanation of your letter of the 19th inst. & in your letter of the 10th you said the point of the nose projects too much. Therefore, if the lower lip & the rest of the features are brought a little forward, the point of the nose will not appear to project so much, as you say in your letter of the 10th.

It is my sincere wish to please the Government & to give satisfaction as far as my little talents reaches in my art. You write me that I said in my letter of the 16th that it is not in my power to do anything more to them, & in the 17th of June, I said that if it is your wish I would alter those points, but at the same time I said that I am not certain that it will improve the likeness.

I wrote you that of the 17th after examining more closely the empressions, & I saw plainly that it would not improve the likeness, which it is a matter of success by all artists, in point of hitting a likeness, especially seldom a copy will be so successful as the original, which is the cause of those three dies, with the likeness of President Adams, being the middle size the original.

I beg to ask you again whether I shall alter those two dies or engrave two new ones over.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

You obt. servant, Moritz Fürst.

Col. Thomas L. McKenney, Esqr.,
Chief Inspector of Ind. Affairs.”

Alterations having been made, the President's son expressed approval in the following letters:

"Washington, 20 Novr. 1825.

Thos. L. McKenney, Esqur.

My dear Sir:

I return you herewith Mr. Fürst's letter which you were kind enough to send me several days since. I pray you to excuse my retaining it so long. As regards the subject of it, although I can not feel satisfied with the *likeness*, I do not believe that any further attempts would be more successful and must therefore be content.

* * * * *

Wishing you a speedy and successful termination of this tedious and disagreeable business, I remain

Yours with regards,

John Adams, Junr.

Washington 20 Decr. 1825.

My dear Sir:

I return herewith the medal you sent me on Saturday, with many thanks. I think it better than the larger size; but could wish that Mr. Fürst had been more fortunate. It is, however, I think better than either of the medals of Mr. Monroe or Mr. Madison. The family generally coincide with me in opinion.

Yours truly and in haste,

John Adams, Junr.

Mr. McKenney, having approved the likeness, received the following two letters:

"New York, Novr. 28th, 1825.

Sir:

I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 22d inst., and I am glad to hear that the likenesses are more to your satisfaction.

* * * * *

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servant, Moritz Fürst

Thos. McKenney, Esqur.,

Chief Inspector of Ind. Affairs.

"New York, December 1, 1825.

Sir,

By looking over again your letter of Novbr. 22d, I perceived that you are under a mistake & think that I have entirely engraved the largest and smallest dies new over again, but I did not, by having seen the President in the theatre I perceived that I could improve those two dies, so that they should be more to your satisfaction, which I find that they are, but if it is your wish that I shall engrave other two dies with entirely new likenesses, you will be pleased to inform me of it by return of the mail, but I will not promise you better likenesses than the largest & smallest are, except the President honors me with sitting three or four times to each die, & then I am not certain that they will be better.

* * * * *

I have the honor to be

Respectfully,

Your obt. servant, Moritz Fürst.

Col. Thomas L. McKenney, Esqr.,
Chief Inspector of Ind. Affairs."

1829

29. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Jackson, facing right; fur cloak as No. 20. Legend, ANDREW JACKSON PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; below the bust, A.D. 1829. In small letters FÜRST F., size 76 mm.

30. Same, but without the fur cloak, size 62 mm.

Plate 14

31. Same as No. 30, size 51 mm. Engraver's name abbreviated to FUR.

1837

32. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Van Buren, facing right; fur cloak as No. 20. Legend, MARTIN VAN BUREN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; below the bust, A.D. 1837, near the edge, in small letters, FÜRST F., size, 76 mm.

33. Same, but without the fur cloak; beneath the bust, FÜRST F., size 62 mm. Plate 14

34. Same as No. 33, size, 51 mm.

The following extracts from a letter of Dr. R. M. Patterson, Director of the United States Mint, at Philadelphia, to Hon. J. C. Spencer, Secretary of War, dated November 2, 1841, announce the adoption of a new method of cutting the obverse dies of the Presidential Indian medals:—

"The dies for the Indian Medals, bearing the heads of the successive Presidents, have heretofore been cut by artists in this country; the earlier ones by Reich the later by Fürst. One of these is dead, and the other in Europe.

"I now propose, with your approbation, to pursue a different course, and to dispense entirely with the service of a die sinker. For this purpose a medallion likeness of the President must be modeled in wax or clay, on a table four inches in diameter, and I understand that an artist at Washington, named Chapman, is competent to do this work. A plaster cast from this model is used as a pattern for a casting in fine iron, which can be executed by Babbit at Boston, as well as at the celebrated foundries at Berlin. This casting is then placed in an instrument called a *portrait lathe* (of which we have a very perfect one at the Mint, which I caused to be made at Paris), and reduced fac-similies of it are turned by the lathe, thus preparing for us the dies which we need."

After mentioning some other medals, the dies for which were cut by this process, one of which he sends as a sample, the letter continues:—

"The proposed method presents the advantage of greater economy. The last Indian medal dies, which were the cheapest we have made, cost \$1160; Mr. Peale, our chief coiner, is willing to undertake the execution of those for President Tyler, for \$800.

"Medals for President Van Buren were begun, and in fact completed, in anticipation of the necessary appropriation by Congress, and I would suggest to you whether the same course would not be desirable now.

"I present the following estimate for the appropriation to be asked:	
For furnishing three head dies	800.00
For preparing, striking, ringing, etc., 60 of the largest medals at \$2.37 each .	142.20
For 200 of the two smaller sizes at \$1.37 each	274.00
Fine silver used for the Medals	1000.00
Contingencies	283.80
	<hr/>
	2500.00

"It may perhaps be judged proper to introduce Indian Medals of President Harrison into the series.

"In this case the estimate need not be doubled, for it is not to be supposed that many more *Medals* would be wanted. I should suppose that an additional appropriation of \$1000, would be sufficient. I may remark, however, that Washington is not in the series of Indian Medals, and that Harrison, like Washington, is in the series of those voted by Congress to our successful Military commanders." ²¹

The Secretary of War evidently did not approve of the suggestion to introduce a medal of President William Henry Harrison into the series, as it is entirely ignored in his reply to Dr. Patterson's letter, which is as follows:—

"I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 2nd instant respecting the means of procuring the dies for Medals bearing the likeness of President Tyler. The advantages of the mode you propose are sufficiently attested by execution of the medal accompanying your letter, and, in accordance with your suggestions, measures have been adopted to have a medallion likeness of the President taken, the execution of which has been entrusted to Mr. Pettrich, whose merit as an artist cannot be unknown to you." ²²

1841

35. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Tyler, facing left, fur cloak as No. 20. Legend, JOHN TYLER PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. Beneath the bust, the date, 1841, size, 76 mm.

Plate 15

36. Same, except legend, JOHN TYLER PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. A.D. 1841, size 62 mm.

37. Same as 36, size, 51 mm.

It will be noticed that the portraits on the three medals are identical, all having been reduced from the same model.

1845

38. *Obverse*: Clothed and cloaked bust of President Polk, facing left. Legend, JAMES K. POLK PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, below the bust, 1845, size, 76 mm.

39. Same, size 62 mm.

Plate 15

40. Same, size 51 mm.

The obverse dies of the Polk and Taylor medals were the work of Franklin Peale, son of the celebrated artist Charles Wilson Peale. He was born in 1795,

²¹ Loubat, p. 277.

²² Loubat, p. 278.

employed in the U. S. Mint in 1833, appointed Melter and Refiner in 1836 and Chief Coiner in 1839 which office he held until 1854. He died in 1870.

The reverse dies having worn out, it became necessary to prepare new ones, as will be seen from the following extracts from letters written by Dr. Patterson to William Morrell, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the first dated July 18, 1846:

"As the dies for the Indian medals belong to the War Department, it is proper that I should mention that the reverses are no longer in a condition to be employed. They have been used for all the medals struck since the time of President Jefferson, and it was with difficulty that they could be made to answer for those which we have just completed. A new set will be absolutely necessary, and it seems not unreasonable that they should be paid out of the appropriation made for these medals, in striking which they have finally failed."

The necessary approval having been given, and the dies made, he writes again on the 5th of December, of the same year:—

"In a letter which I addressed to you on the 18th of July last, I stated that the reverses used for the Indian medals were no longer in a condition to be again employed. I mentioned that the cost of a new set would be \$300, and I asked your authority to have them made without further delay. This authority you gave me in your letter of the 21st of July. I have now to report that complete sets, both of hubs and dies have been made, and that the hubs will put it in our power to replace a die, at any time, if it should be injured. All apprehension from this source is therefore removed for the future."²³

Plate 16

1849

41. *Obverse*: Clothed and mantled bust of President Taylor, facing left. Legend, ZACHARY TAYLOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; below the bust, 1849, size, 76 mm.

42. Same, size, 62 mm.

43. Same, size, 51 mm.

Plate 15

Some time between 1809 and 1846 the omission of John Adams from the series of Indian medals was rectified by the striking of a medal with the reverse that was used on the other medals issued between these dates. The medals are pierced for suspension and the one in the collection of The American Numismatic Society shows considerable wear.

44. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Adams, facing right. Legend, JOHN ADAMS PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.; below the bust, A.D. 1797, size, 51 mm.

Plate 15

45. A similar medal, except that the reverse is from the die used after 1846, size, 72 mm.

Only one specimen of this size is known. Although in very fine condition, it shows evidence of wear, and was probably given to some Indian.

Other specimens of the earlier medals are occasionally found with this later reverse, which were evidently struck after 1846 and were probably given out to Indians in the usual way. The collection of The American Numismatic Society

²³ Loubat, p. 151.

contains medals of the largest size of Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, with both reverses, also, a large size medal of President Polk with the new reverse, and a smaller one with the old reverse.

1850

46. *Obverse*: Undraped bust of President Fillmore, facing right. Legend, MILLARD FILLMORE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1850; in small letters, below the bust, S. ELLIS.

Reverse: On the right, the full-length figure of an Indian standing, facing left; on the left, a man in civilian costume standing, facing the Indian; a plow and an axe between them. An American flag on a short staff, which stands upright to the left is spread out forming a background to the upper half of the two figures. Landscape with hills, trees and a farm house in the distance. At the top, are three links, enclosing the three words, LABOR, VIRTUE, HONOR. In the exergue, in very small letters, J. WILLSON, size, 76 mm.

47. Same, size, 63 mm.

Plate 15

From this time on, the medal of the smallest size is discontinued.

1853

48. *Obverse*: Undraped bust of President Pierce, facing left. Legend, FRANKLIN PIERCE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1853; in small letters below the bust, S. ELLIS.

Reverse: As last, size, 76 mm.

49. Same, except that the artist's name S. ELLIS, on the obverse, is very close to the edge, to the right of the date, size, 63 mm.

Plate 17

1857

50. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Buchanan, facing right. Legend, JAMES BUCHANAN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1857; in small letters below the bust, S. ELLIS.

Reverse: In the center, a round medallion, about three-fifths the diameter of the medal, showing a landscape with house and church in the background, also, children at play; in the foreground, an Indian plowing; in the exergue, J. WILLSON DEL. & SC., in very small letters. Between this medallion and the edge; above, an Indian in the act of scalping an other Indian; below, the head of a squaw, a quiver of arrows to the left, and a bow and calumet, to the right, size, 76 mm. The object of the design is to depict the advantages of civilization over the life of the savage.

51. Same, size, 63 mm.

Plate 17

As has been stated it has, for many years, been the custom of the United States Mint to strike the Indian Peace Medals, as well as other Government medals, in bronze, not pierced or provided with any attachment for suspension, simply to sell to the general public at a small price. The Buchanan medal, just described was so struck at the Mint in both sizes. It was also struck in the larger size, with the reverse of the Fillmore and Pierce medals, Nos. 46-48. I have never heard of an example with this reverse, in silver or pierced for suspension. Nor do I know of one having been actually given to an Indian, and am inclined to the belief

that it may have been struck in bronze simply to sell, and that, in order to make an additional variety, the reverse die of the two previous administrations was combined with the obverse die bearing Buchanan's portrait. Of course it is also possible that this reverse die may have been used at the beginning of the administration, and later replaced by the new one as soon as it was prepared.

Loubat describes and illustrates the Buchanan medal with this reverse, but he does not state the size or the metal, and the illustration shows no indication of any provision for suspension. His description and illustration were probably made from one of the bronze Mint medals just mentioned. Therefore, as it is a question whether this was a medal made for and given to the Indians, it has been thought better at this time, not to list it as one of the regular series.

1862

52. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Lincoln, facing right, draped with a cloak; on truncation, the word, PATENTED; below, in small letters, S. ELLIS DEL. SC., Legend, ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1862.

Reverse, as No. 50, size, 76 mm.

Plate 17

53. Same as last, except, that the name of the artist, J. WILLSON, is lacking from the reverse. Other minor differences are noted, and as worn silver specimens are in the Society's collection showing both reverse dies, both dies must have been contemporary.

54. Same as No. 52, Size, 63 mm.

These are the only medals in the Presidential series since Washington, that bear a date other than the beginning of the President's term of office. Lincoln became President in 1861.

The Lincoln Administration did not confine itself to giving medals, as silver-headed canes were also presented. A delegation of Osage Indians visiting Washington received canes, a number of which are still in existence.

1865

55. *Obverse*: Undraped bust of President Johnson, facing right. Legend, ANDREW JOHNSON PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1865; below the bust, *Paquet F.*

Reverse: In the center, pedestal on the face of which is the word PEACE, encircled by a wreath of laurel; the pedestal is surmounted by a small undraped bust of George Washington, facing right; to the right, a full-length female figure representing America, facing left, her right hand extended; at her feet and behind her, are implements and works of civilization; to the left, the full-length figure of an Indian chief, facing right; at his feet and behind him, weapons of savage warfare and scenes of savage life; below, in small letters, *Paquet F.* A small attachment and ring for suspension, size, 76 mm.

56. Same as last, size, 63 mm.

Plate 17

Pewter specimens of both sizes are also in the collection of The American Numismatic Society.

1871

57. *Obverse*: Bust of President Grant, facing right; border of olive leaves intersected at top, bottom and each side by United States shields; inside this, border; above, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and a second line, LET US HAVE PEACE; below, LIBERTY JUSTICE AND EQUALITY, above which, a calumet and branch of laurel.

Reverse: A globe, showing the Western Hemisphere, behind which is an open book inscribed HOLY BIBLE, surrounded by rays; the globe rests on farming implements; below, the date, 1871, and, above and below, ON EARTH PEACE GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN. The whole encircled by a raised border, on which are thirty-six stars, size 64 mm. Plate 18

This is the only medal in the series that does not contain the name of the president. It was issued in one size only. A specimen in the collection of The American Numismatic Society has the name of the Indian who received it engraved on the edge.²⁴ At Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass, is the medal given to the celebrated Sioux Chief Red Cloud.

1877

58. *Obverse:* Undraped bust of President Hayes, facing left. Legend, RUTHERFORD B. HAYES . PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. On truncation, MORGAN.

Reverse: At top, rays radiating from the date, 1877, and separating the letters of the word PEACE; below, a straight line, below which is a rural scene—an Indian standing under an oak tree, to the right, facing a white man, his left hand resting on an axe and at his feet a tree, cut down; to the left, a log house, a woman with baby sitting in front; in the background, a man plowing. In the exergue, a laurel wreath entwining a crossed peace-pipe and tomahawk. Signed, MORGAN, in very small letters under the Indian. Oval, size, 76 x 60 mm. Plate 18.

1881

59. *Obverse:* Undraped bust of President Garfield facing left. Legend, JAMES A GARFIELD . PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1881. Signed, below the bust C. E. BARBER F. Plate 18

Reverse: As No. 55, but lacking the date, and signed M, for Morgan. Oval, size, 76 x 60 mm.

60. *Obverse:* Undraped bust of President Arthur, facing right. Legend, CHESTER A. ARTHUR . PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1881. Signed, below the bust, C. E. BARBER F. Plate 18

Reverse: As last. Oval, size, 76 x 60 mm.

1885

61. *Obverse:* Clothed bust of President Cleveland facing right. Legend, above, GROVER CLEVELAND PRESIDENT; below, U.S.A. 1885. Signed on truncation, C. E. BARBER F. Plate 19

Reverse: As last. Oval, size, 76 x 60 mm.

1889

62. *Obverse:* Clothed bust of President Harrison facing left. Legend, above, BENJAMIN HARRISON PRESIDENT, below U.S.A. 1889. Signed on truncation, C. E. BARBER F. Plate 19

Reverse: As last. Oval, size, 76 x 60 mm.

63. *Obverse:* Bust, as last, but much larger. Legend, to the left, BENJAMIN HARRISON; to the right, PRESIDENT U.S.A. Signed on truncation, C. E. BARBER F.

Reverse: Two round medallions; on the one to the right, which overlaps the other, Civilized

²⁴ This reads,—“Pi-ati”—Chief of Ne-va-va Utes 1875.

Indian standing; in the background, house, farm buildings, horse, chickens, farm utensils; on the one to the left, Indian in native dress, wigwam, setting sun in the background; above the medallions, wreath and branches of laurel and the word, PEACE, together with a tomahawk and pipe; below, a scroll inscribed, PROGRESS, under which is a plow; at each side a branch of laurel, size, 76 mm. Plate 19

This is the only medal of the series that bears no date. It is also the last Presidential medal designed for presentation to the Indians. The new medals which have been given to the Indians since the administration of President Harrison, have been either inauguration medals or those originally made for some other purpose.

All of the foregoing medals, except those of Washington, were made at the United States Mint, and restrikes of them, in bronze or copper, and occasionally in silver, have been made from time to time and sold to visitors at the Mint. These are sometimes found in possession of Indians, either pierced or provided with attachments for suspension, and, in some cases, silver-plated.

It would be an easy matter for those having no authority to do so, to secure these medals and, after soldering on a ring, or boring a hole, to present them to the Indians as government awards, and this may have been done to a greater or less extent. Still the following letter would indicate that bronze as well as silver medals have been provided by the government for presentation to Indians through the United States Indian agents:—

Washington City, D. C.,
Dec. 16th, 1862

Sir:

I have to request that a silver medal be furnished me for the following chiefs.

Nag-ga rash	Head Chief	Iowa Tribe
To-hee	Second	"
Mah-hee	Third	"
Thur-a-mo-na	Fourth	"
Pe te-oak-e ma	Head	Sac & Fox of Mo Tribe
Ne san-quost	Second	" " " " " "
Also a bronze medal for each of the following chiefs or counselors.		
Tar sa hee	Fifth Chief	Iowa Tribe
Ci-he ga in ga	Head Counselor	" "
James Kin a hook a	Second "	" "
Mo le ss	Third Chief	Sac & Fox of Mo Tribe
Se se oc e	Head Counselor	" " " " " "

To-hee and Mah-hee were the first to move on their present Reservation and each have over fifty acres of land under successful cultivation and were promoted to chieftainship on account of their industry. Thur-a-mo-na, is strictly temperate, is the leader of the largest band and encourages them to work and adopt the customs of the whites.

Ne-san-quost, the second chief of the Sac & Foxes says: he has never drank a glass of whiskey or smoked a pipe.

The chiefs request that a letter be sent to each person receiving a silver medal.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. Servant

John A. Burbank,
U.S. Ind. Agt.

Hon. Wm. P. Dole
Comr. Ind. Afrs.

Under date of November 2nd, 1841, a letter from the Director of the Mint, at Philadelphia, to the Secretary of the War, contains the following:

"I may remark, however, that Washington is not in the series of Indian Medals."
(See page 33.)

This omission appears to have been rectified by the issue of the following medal:

64. *Obverse*: Undraped bust of Washington, facing right Legend, GEORGE WASHINGTON PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; below the bust, the date, 1789. Plate 19
Reverse: As Nos. 20 to 45. Silver and copper, size, 76 mm.

As these medals occur with both the old and new reverse, it is fair to assume that they were first made before December, 1846, at which time the old reverse dies were abandoned and new ones came into use (see p. 34). There are also two obverse dies of this medal which show slight differences.

The collection of The American Numismatic Society contains a specimen in copper, attached to which is a leather thong which the Indian who wore it, tied around his neck; also, a similar medal which was cast, not struck, to which is attached a string of brass beads. This medal belonged to a Cheyenne Indian in Montana, known as Shaved Head, who is said to have inherited it from other members of his tribe, it having originally been given to Big Foot, a full brother of the celebrated Cheyenne chief, High Back Wolf, when he visited Washington in 1831 or 1832. I am inclined however to doubt this early date, as, the above letter of Dr. Patterson would indicate that it was at least ten years later before any of these Washington medals were made.

The same collection also contains a copper medal, silver plated, which was obtained from the same section of the country and was originally worn by a Cheyenne Indian. The Daniel B. Dyer collection, in the Kansas City Public Library, has one of these medals, silver plated on some white metal, on the edge of which is the name of the Indian who owned it.

MEDALS OF FUR TRADERS

There are a number of most interesting medals, which, while they were not issued by the government, have a sufficient resemblance to the regular Presidential medals to give them an official appearance.

The principal things that the Indians had to exchange for the supplies provided by the traders, were furs, and among the early fur traders in the United States, the name of John Jacob Astor stands pre-eminent.

Mr. Astor was born in Germany and came to this country in 1784. He entered into the fur trade in a small way and with great success, soon doing a very large and profitable business. For the purpose of branching out still further and establishing trading posts in the Indian country, he organized the American Fur Company in 1809, and became a competitor of the Northwest Company, the great Canadian fur trading company whose headquarters were in Montreal.

The Lewis and Clark expedition, which left St. Louis early in 1804, followed the Missouri River to its source, crossed the Rocky Mountains, followed the Columbia River to the Pacific, returning to St. Louis in 1806, blazed the way for the establishment of distant trading stations and greater facilities for cultivating friendly, and therefore profitable, relations with the Indians.

The fur traders in St. Louis were not slow to take advantage of the opportunities presented and were constantly pushing their stations and sending their men, further west. The American Fur Company could not overlook so promising a field, and established a Western Department with headquarters in St. Louis.

The agency of this Western Department was placed in the hands of the firm of Bernard Pratte & Co., of which Pierre Chouteau, Jr. was the active member. Mr. Chouteau therefore became the principal representative of Mr. Astor in this territory, and so continued as long as Mr. Astor remained the active head of the American Fur Company.

The principal competitor of the American Fur Company was the firm of Tilton & Company, which traded under the name of Columbia Fur Company and of which the active partner was Kenneth McKenzie.

In July, 1827, the Columbia Fur Company was absorbed by the American Fur Company; that branch of the Company which covered the Missouri River and adjacent country, being given the name of Upper Missouri Outfit, usually known by the initials U.M.O., with Mr. McKenzie as the leading partner.

In 1828, Mr. McKenzie sent a party up the Missouri River to establish a post at the mouth of the Yellowstone. This post was first called Fort Floyd, and another post was established, two hundred miles beyond, called Fort Union. This post was shortly abandoned and the post at the mouth of the Yellowstone was enlarged, and took the name Fort Union, becoming the largest and most important station on the Missouri River.

Mr. McKenzie, whose early training had been with the Northwest Company in Canada, and who had seen how much importance the Indians attached to presents, especially medals, suggested having some medals struck, in the name of the American Fur Company, to be awarded to friendly Indians.

Mr. Chouteau approved of this idea, and in a letter to the main office of the company in New York, under date of August 17, 1831, referring to a post that was to be established in the far northwest, said:

"It is at this establishment that we shall have to combat the opposition of the

English traders, who have a fort not far distant, and who, as is their custom, will undoubtedly do everything in their power to excite the Indians against us.

"This difficulty might nevertheless be somewhat diminished if the government could be persuaded to place at our disposal a few presents, which would be delivered to the Indians in the name of the President of the United States. The English government, if I am well informed, allows the Northwest Company an annual sum for this particular purpose. A little indulgence of this nature on the part of the government will secure the confidence and friendship of these savages toward us."²⁵

Mr. Ramsey Crooks, an official of the Company in New York, obtained permission from the War Department for the American Fur Company to make some medals on its own account, but with the condition that they should not be called medals, as will be seen from the following extract from a letter from Mr. Crooks to Mr. Chouteau, November 16, 1832:—

"The medals for his (McKenzie's) outfit are in the hands of the die-maker, who, I hope, will give us a good likeness *de notre estimable grandpapa*" (Mr. Astor).

"I wrote to Washington about them and the War Office made no objection to our having these *ornaments* made. Remember they are *ornaments* not medals."²⁶

As the dies for the Astor medal were in course of preparation in November, 1832, the medals were, no doubt, struck either late in 1832 or early in 1833 and are described as follows:

65. *Obverse*: Undraped bust of John Jacob Astor, facing left. Legend; above, PRESIDENT OF THE; below, AMERICAN FUR COMPANY.

Reverse: In center, clasped hands; above, in a curved line, PEACE AND; below, also in a curved line, FRIENDSHIP; crossed tomahawk and peace-pipe, above and below; at top, FORT UNION, at bottom, U.M.O. Pierced for suspension. Silver, size, 66 mm. Plate 20

In the catalogue of the Bushnell Collection, which was sold in 1882, a similar medal is described as "Cast in copper, silver plated"; another silver plated medal is recorded. What became of these two medals is not known. There is said to be, in the possession of the Astor family a specimen in silver, and a proof, not pierced, in copper. The late Benjamin Betts had one described as "silver gilt." One or two others in silver have come to the notice of the writer. The silver one described above was found on the prairie, south of Dickinson, North Dakota, in 1882, and is now in the collection of The American Numismatic Society.

A similar medal described as tin, unpierced, size, 51 (81 mm.) is mentioned in the Bushnell Collection. This, or a similar one, was formerly in the Gunther collection, Chicago, and was later left to the Chicago Historical Society, but is now in a private collection. Besides being larger than the one described, the legend on obverse and reverse is between the edge and an inner circle. This inner circle represents the size of the regular medal, 66 mm. As this tin or pewter medal is without a hole or suspension ring, it was probably not given to Indians.

²⁵ The American Fur Trade of the Far West, by Capt. Hiram M. Chittenden. New York, 1902, p. 342.

²⁶ Chittenden, p. 343.

A complaint was made to Washington, that, in distributing these medals to the Indians, the Company had overstepped its rights, and in a reply to a letter from the War Department, Mr. Chouteau stated as follows:

"before the die for the Astor medal was struck the matter was submitted to Governor Cass, then Secretary of War, who gave his consent to the measure, and a sample of the medals was deposited with the department, accompanied by letters of the President of the American Fur Company."²⁷

There appears to have been no further objection until March 22, 1844, when the privilege of distributing these medals was withdrawn by the Secretary of War.

66. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Martin Van Buren, facing right; a close copy of the portrait on the regular Presidential medal, No. 32; below the bust, the name of the die-cutter, B. MEAD. D. S., in small letters. Legend, between an inner circle and two beaded circles and the edge; above, PIERRE CHOUTEAU JR. & CO.; below, UPPER MISSOURI OUTFIT. Between the upper and lower legend, groups of two and three leaves.

Reverse: Crossed tomahawk and peace pipe; below, hands clasped; inscription in four lines PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP 1843.

Pewter, size, 92 mm. Small copper attachment for suspension at the top. Plate 20

Pierre Chouteau, Jr. was the grandson of August Chouteau, one of the founders of St. Louis. He was born in St. Louis, Jan. 19, 1789, and died there in 1865. He went into the fur business at an early age and was the active partner in the firm of Bernard Pratte & Co. who were agents in charge of the Western Department of the American Fur Company, which, after uniting with the Columbia Fur Company in 1827, assumed the name of Upper Missouri Outfit. The firm later became Pratte, Chouteau & Co., and, in 1838, its name was changed to Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co., and continued under that title until 1864 when it was absorbed by the Northwestern Fur Company, which was organized by J. B. Hubbell of St. Paul, Minn.

67. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of President Martin Van Buren, facing right, same as No. 66; around bust, two branches of laurel. Legend, between an inner circle and the edge; above, UNION FUR COMPANY; below, B. MEAD, D.S. 1844 ST. LOUIS, MO.; between upper and lower legends, groups of stars.

Reverse: Same as No. 66, but lacking the date, and the top and bottom lines of the inscription are curved, size, 86 mm. Pewter with copper attachment for suspension. Plate 21

The only specimen known was in the Gunther collection, later, in the Chicago Historical Society, and is now in a private collection.

The Union Fur Company was established in 1842, by the firm of Fox, Livingston & Co. of New York, under the management of Ebbetts & Cutting of St. Louis, and for a time was an active competitor of the American Fur Company on the Missouri River. After three years of losing business, it was absorbed by the American Fur Company.

68. *Obverse*: Undraped bust of Washington, facing right. Legend between two dotted

²⁷ Chittenden, p. 343.

circles; above, THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY, below, small rosette, GEORGE WASHINGTON, two small rosettes.

Reverse: At top, an eye encircled by rays; below, peace-pipe and tomahawk crossed. Inscription, in one straight line, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP; below that, clasped right hands; at the bottom, the date, 1843, under which, in small letters, B. MEAD, D. S. ST. LOUIS, size, 90 mm. Pewter. Attachment for suspension as on No. 66. Plate 22

This medal was evidently made for one of the fur trading firms operating in the Missouri territory at this period, but there is nothing to show which one. One specimen is in the Massachusetts Historical Society. Another was in the Hewitt Collection which was sold in New York in 1914, at which time it was purchased by W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal, and is now in the collection of The American Numismatic Society. A third is in the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio. It was found in the wall of an old log house on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, not far from St. Joseph. A fourth is in the National Museum in Washington.

ADDENDA

There are three medals, of sufficient importance to be worthy of mention, the origin of which is so uncertain, that it was thought well not to include them in the regular series.

I. *Obverse:* A perfectly plain field, 53 mm. in diameter, to which has been attached, an undraped bust of Washington, facing left; the bust is after the profile portrait by Joseph Wright and is from the die of the medal of Washington known as the Wright and Bale medal, (Baker,²⁸ No. 74). Around the edge, is a raised, chased border, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide, and of the same thickness, making the full size of the medal 60 mm. Plate 21

Reverse: Identical with the reverse of the Astor Medal, No. 65, but without the words, Fort Union, at the top, and the initials, U. M. O., at the bottom. The border is the same as on the obverse. An attachment for suspension has been removed.

While the medal appears to be all in one piece it is probable that the border was made separately and attached to it. It was plowed up near Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and is now in the collection of the The American Numismatic Society.

II. A perfectly plain field, 61 mm. in diameter, to which is attached, a clothed bust of Lafayette, facing right. This bust is from the die of a Lafayette medal by J. Bale.

Reverse: From the same die as No. 61, the difference in size being due to the wider plain field outside the design.

A border, wider and thicker than that on the previous medal, No. I, and more elaborately chased, has been attached, making the size of the complete medal 70 mm. At the top is a rather heavy ring for suspension. Plate 21

Where this medal was found is not known. It was for some years in the possession of a New York dealer, and was later acquired by Mr. W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal. It is now in the collection of The American Numismatic Society.

²⁸ Medallie Portraits of Washington, by W. S. Baker, Philadelphia, 1885.

It is most probable that these two medals had the same origin, and were made by some clever silversmith, using either the reverse die of the Astor medals, or smoothing off and cutting down a couple of genuine medals and adding the different portraits and borders. Lafayette died in Paris on the 20th of May, 1834, and it is not unlikely that these medals were produced after the news of that event had reached this country.

III. *Obverse*: Clothed bust of Washington, three-quarter face to left. Legend, *GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY*; below, the date, 1789, all on a raised band.

Reverse: On a similar raised band; above, FRIENDSHIP; below, THE PIPE OF PEACE; on each side, six stars; in centre, the date 1789; clasped right hands above; crossed tomahawks below, all encircled by an olive wreath. Pewter, size, 64 mm. Pierced for suspension. This medal is found with plain and reeded edge. Plate 22

A rather curious specimen, cast and with a wide rim, making the size 78 mm., pewter, pierced for suspension, is in the collection of The American Numismatic Society.

The origin of these pewter medals is shrouded in doubt. It has been said that they were first made in St. Louis some time between 1845 and 1850. Certain Indians, and Indian agents, who had medals to sell, have claimed that they have been in the families of the present owners since 1789, but this is not worthy of consideration. It has also been stated that they were of government origin, but in view of the nearly complete series of government medals, of standardized size and design, this would seem impossible. The style, workmanship and metal should preclude this supposition.

Whatever the early history of these medals is, if there is any early history, the dies have survived and in later years have been extensively used.

Mr. Walter C. Wyman, the well known collector of Indian relics writes me as follows:—

“In 1901, while visiting the Omaha tribal reservations, in search of Indian relics, driving along I saw smoke curling up from a gulley. The cabin from which the smoke came was almost obscured by a thicket. I drove up to this cabin, however, and standing in the doorway was an Indian—whom I asked if he had any Indian relics. He came out to my buggy with a freshly done Washington medal of the 1789 series, and after a considerable amount of quizzing as to where it came from, he told me that it was made by a man in Pender, Nebraska, which is about one hundred miles north of the Reservation.

“In my travels through the various reservations, which include most every one in the country, these medals have been offered me in all the reservations, in sums varying from one to twenty dollars, in various stages of defacement and wear, with fantastic tales attached to them regarding their presentation to their ancestors, and I have also seen many of them worn by the Indians and very highly regarded by them.”

Mr. Wyman finally got in touch with the man from Pender, from whom he received the following letter, which explains the situation at that time:—

Pender, Nebr.,
Oct. 17th, 1901.

Mr. W. C. Wyman,
Union League Club, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I have before me your letter of the 14th inst. and note what you inquire of.

The George Washington Peace & Friendship Medal, copies of which you say you have, I am informed was used as early as our National Government made treaties with the Indian tribes for cessions of land. My information is not exact, neither is it closely approximate as to the date of the first treaty; that you can learn from history. But the legend is that the present government has always used such a medal and decorated the Indian representatives who negotiated a treaty after signing of the treaty, with this medal. This custom was continuous until about the conclusion of the Civil War, since when it is wholly discontinued.

The Indians were always made to understand that decoration with this medal was the highest distinction that the Great Father could bestow on His red children; and each one so decorated felt that the Great Father regarded him as a Chief or Head-man in his tribe. So it is that the medal is more sought after than any other known to me among the Indians; also, for the further reason that the Indian people crave the old things, follow the precedents of generations and cherish the ideals of ancestry.

I do not feel at liberty to tell you the history of the dies of this medal, except to abbreviate by saying that it was furnished to me by a part blood Indian whose relatives then were employees in the Interior Department in Washington, who was cherishing it as a relic when induced by me to sell it, he not realizing its value for reproduction of the medals as a commercial venture.

I have sold as many as \$800 worth of these medals for use among the Poncas of Okl. Territory.

I commenced selling them at \$15.00 apiece and sold many at that figure, and later dropped to \$10. and never sold them to Indians cheaper. Have sold a few to personal friends among white people for less.

If I were to contract any quantity of these medals, I would wish you to contract not to sell or use them in certain Territory, as, for instance, under no circumstances would I sell them for retail among any tribes in this state or in the Dakotas. I do not know where you wish to sell them. Should you engage a quantity from me, I should wish guarantees and forfeits against breach of your contract.

Under those conditions I could furnish you in quantities of 50 or more, by installment shipments, at \$2.00 apiece in aluminum, or, \$15. in silver. The aluminum appear as well and are as well liked by the great mass of the Indians as are the silver ones.

Of the other medals you mention, I only know that there have been one or two medals with President Grant's picture on, in this country, the others are undoubtedly copies of this Washington medal.

* * * * *

Very respectfully,

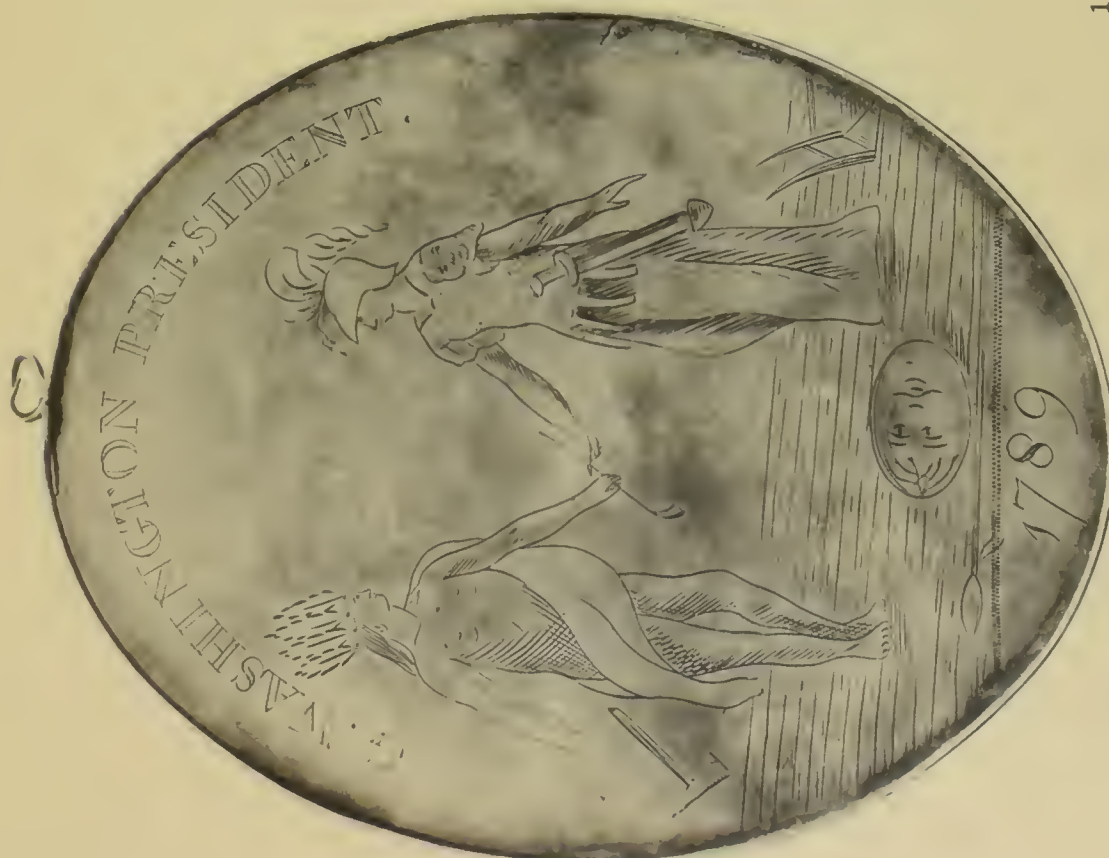
Joseph A. Lamere.

Needless to say, Mr. Wyman did not accept this interesting proposition. He has since ascertained that Mr. Lamere, who is an Indian, is still living, though he

moved away from Pender some years ago, and that the demand for these medals having been supplied, they have not been issued for some time.

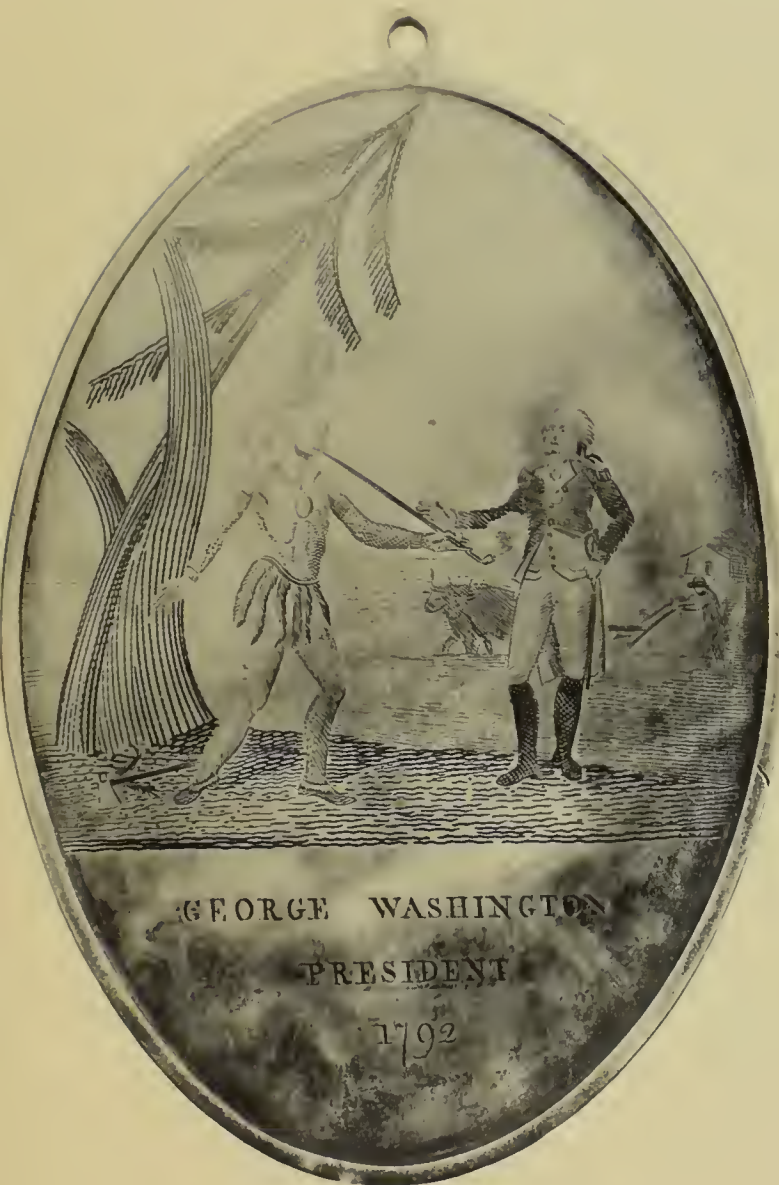
From another source it has been learned that this Indian formerly made it a practice to attend various Indian gatherings, and with much pomp and ceremony to present one of these medals to each of the most influential chiefs, accepting whatever presents might be tendered in return and thereby he accumulated many horses and other articles of value.

This custom he carried on until the Indians began to see through the game, and became suspicious of any medal bearing the portrait of Washington.

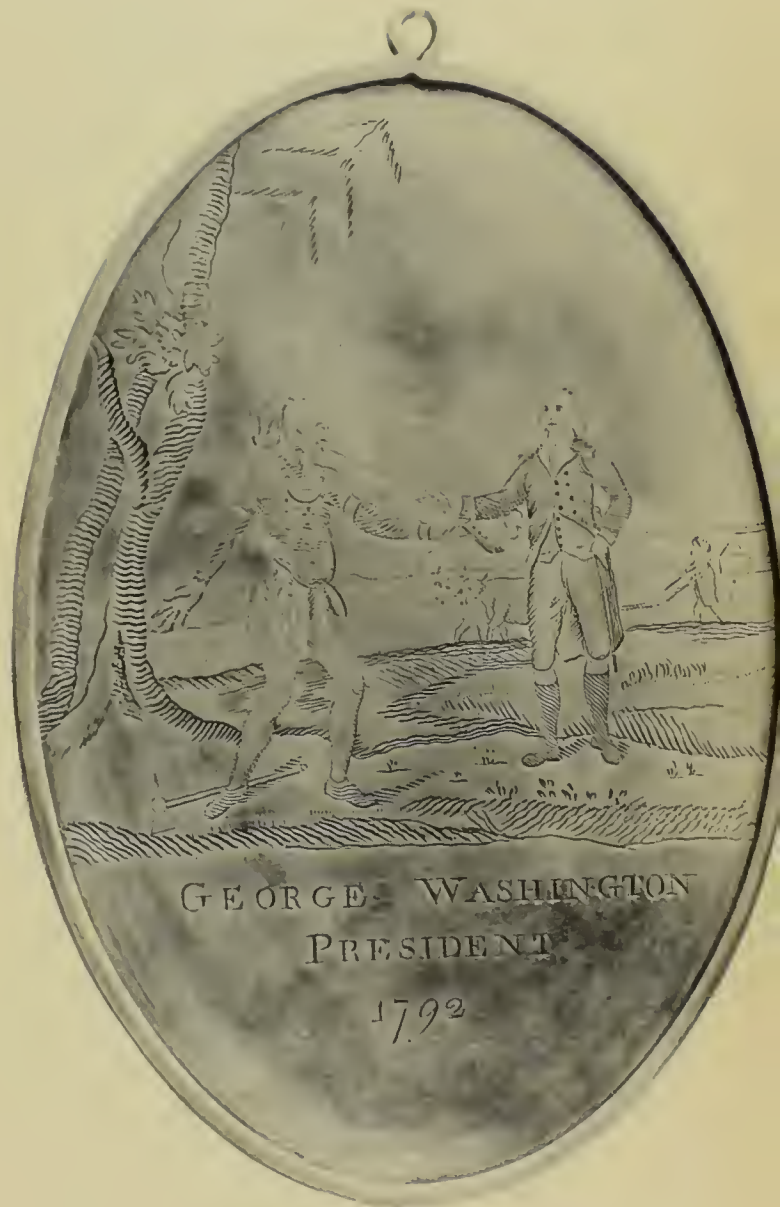




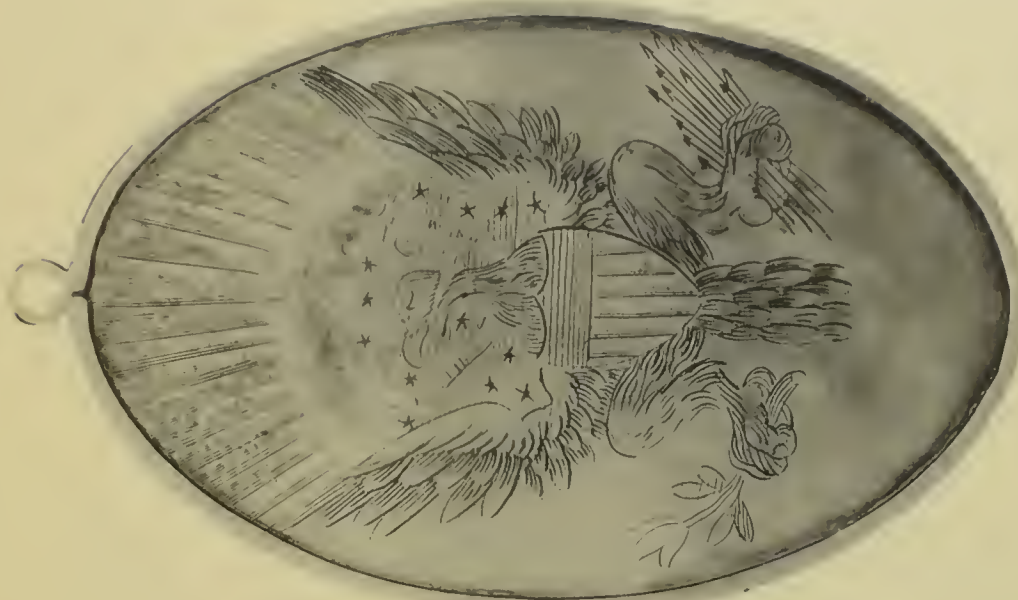




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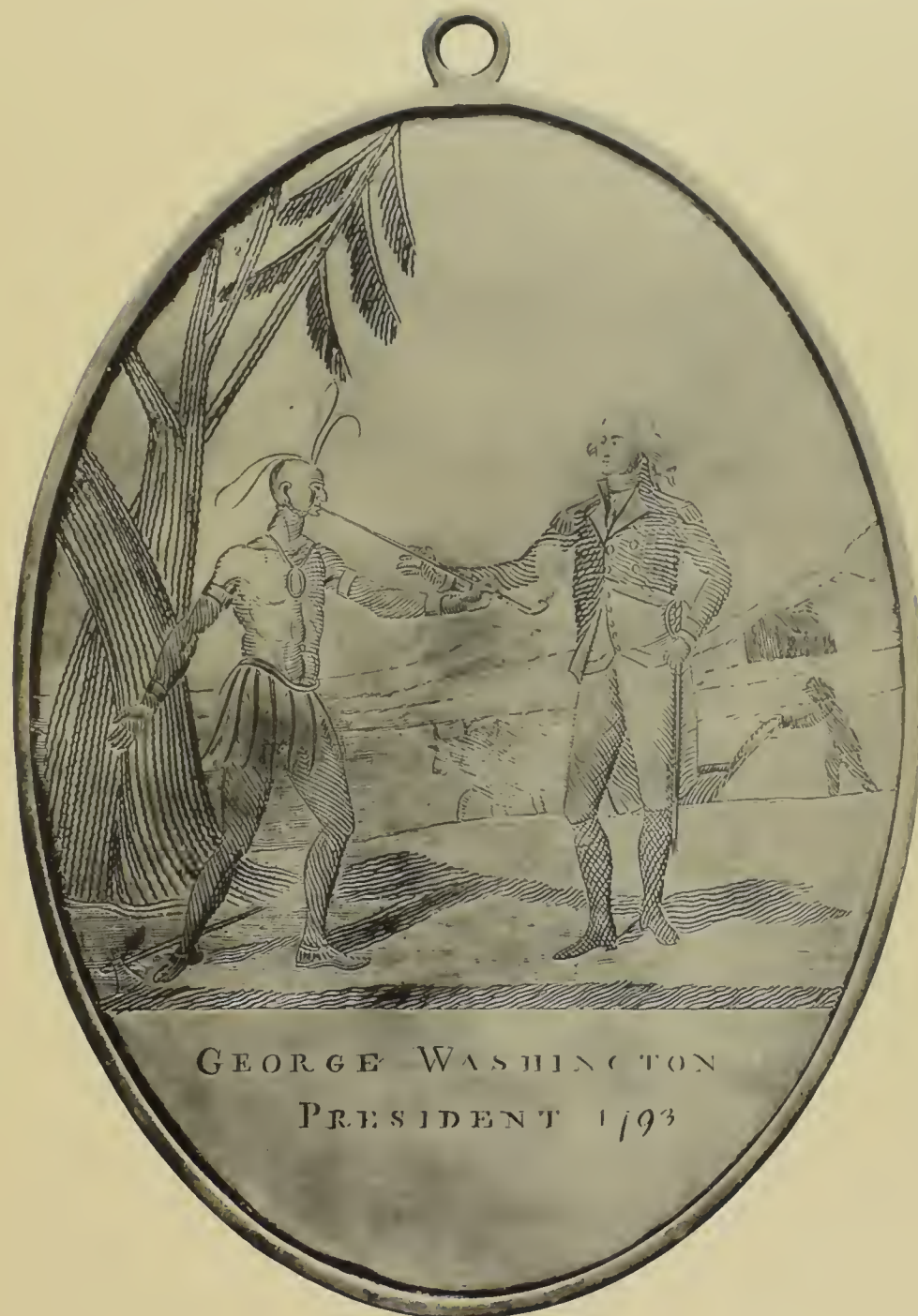


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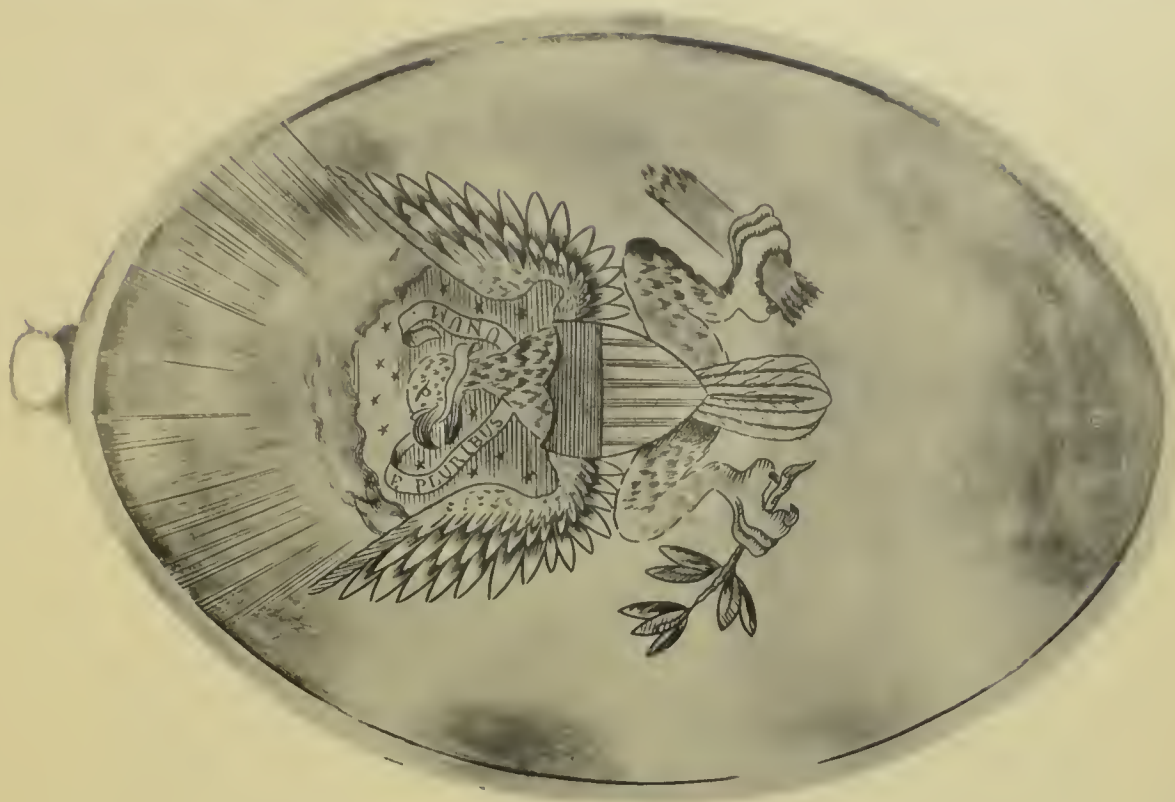
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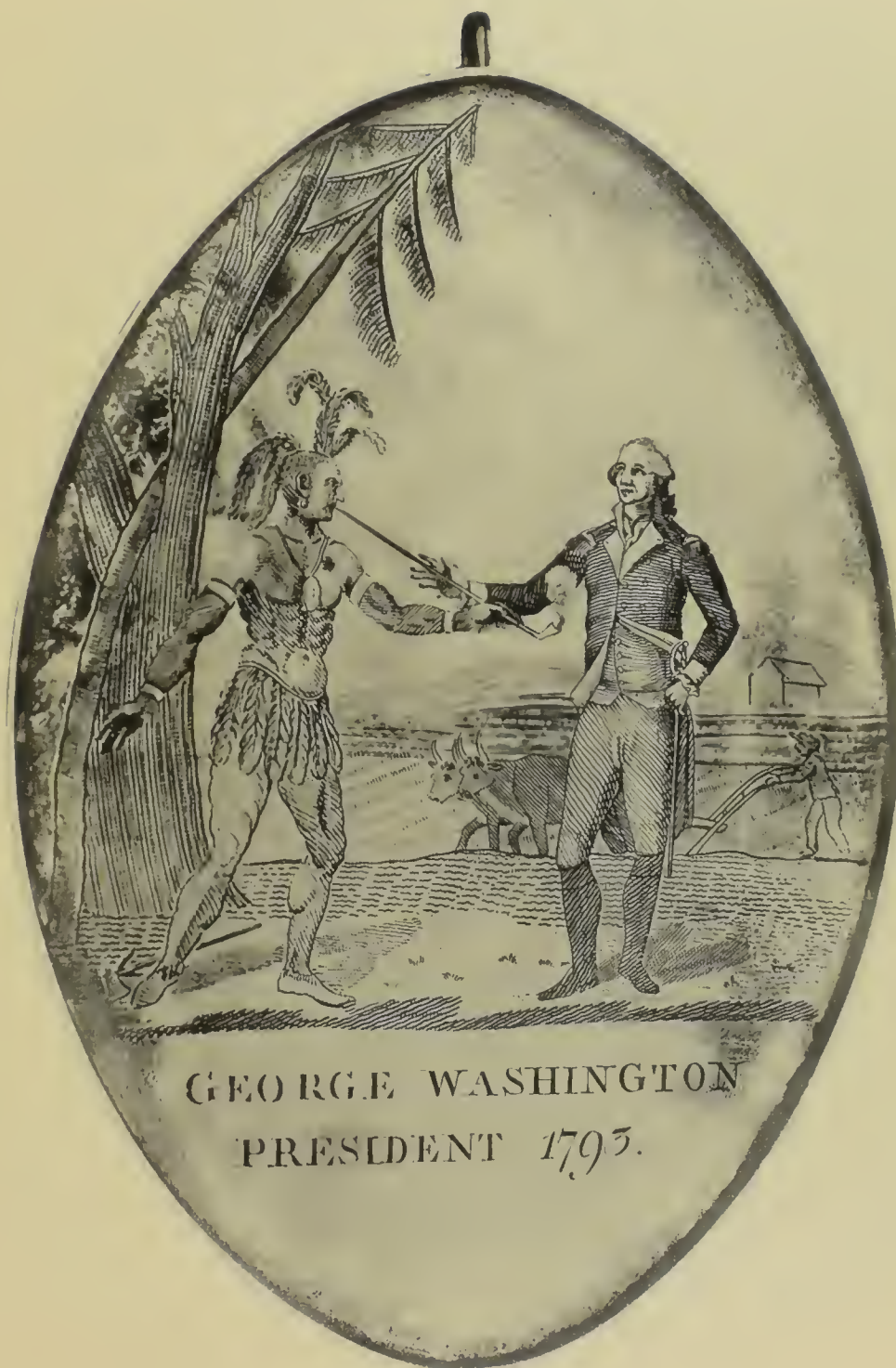




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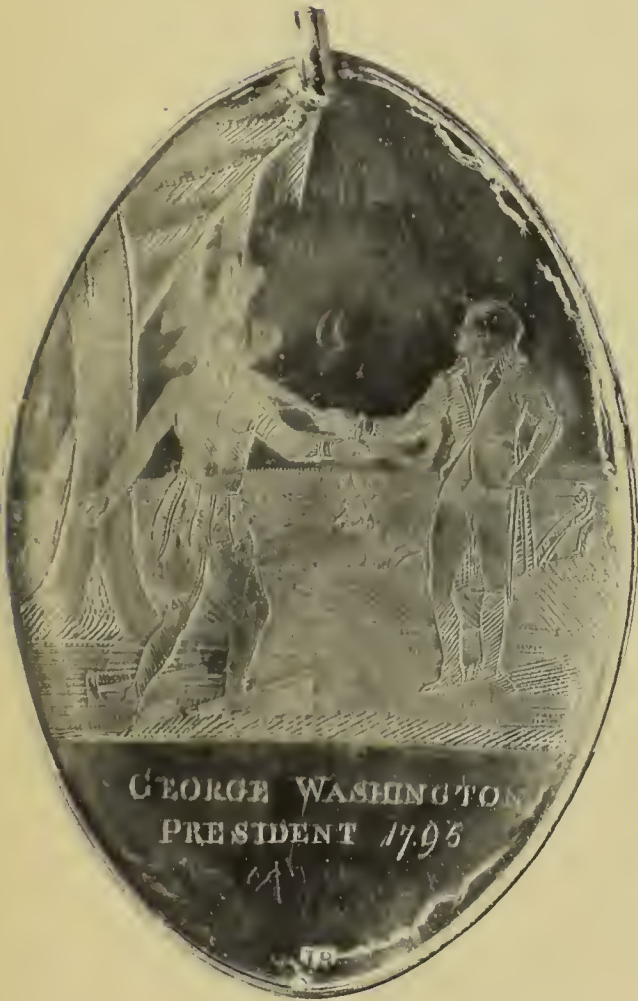




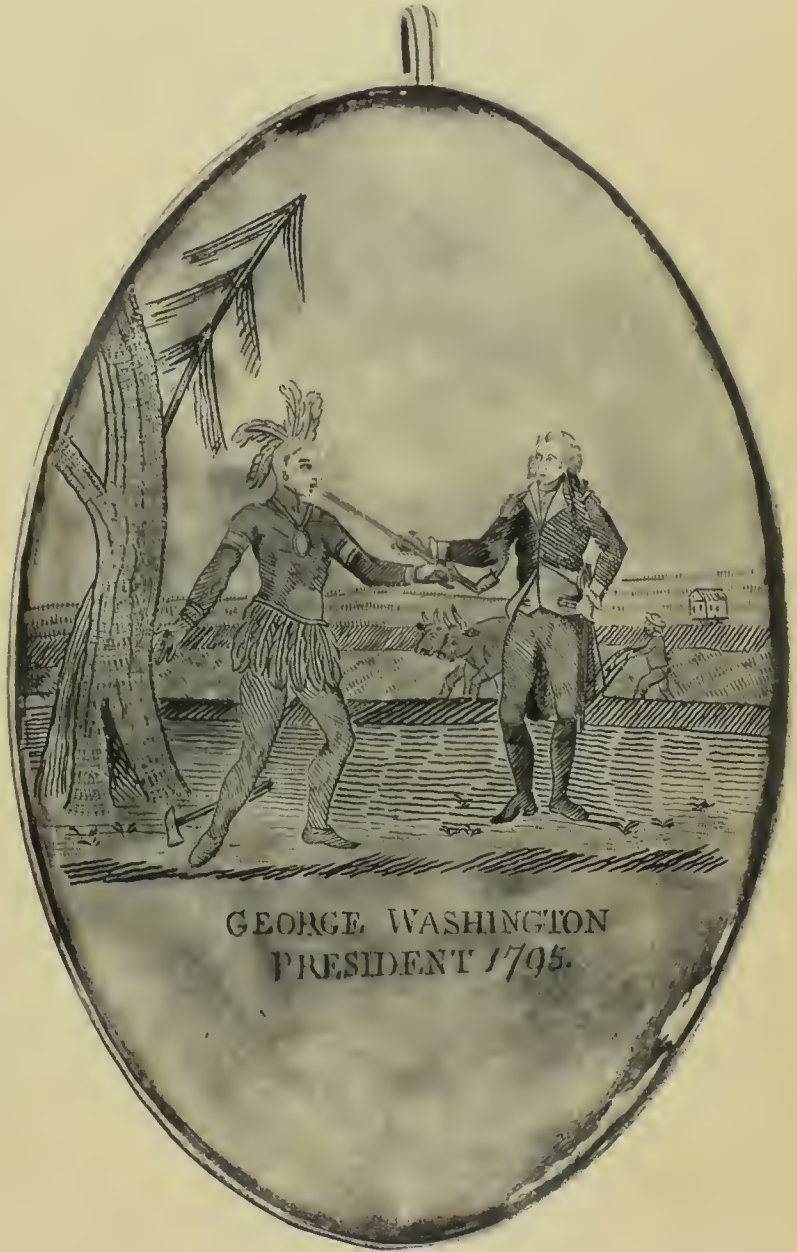
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9 B



9c



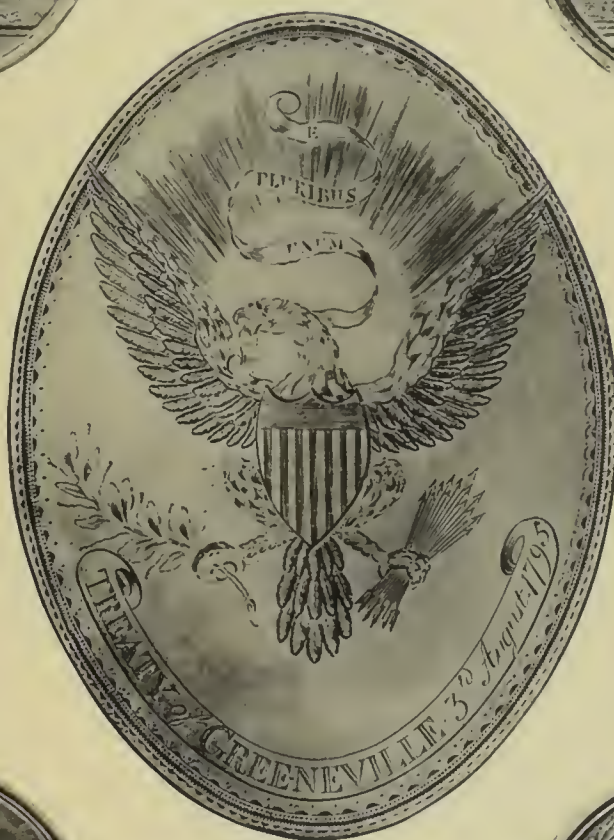
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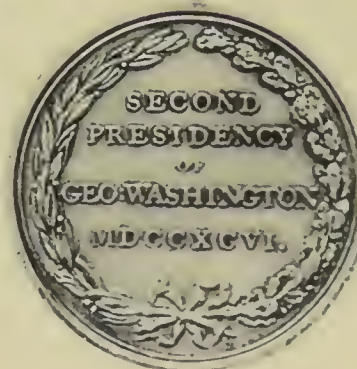
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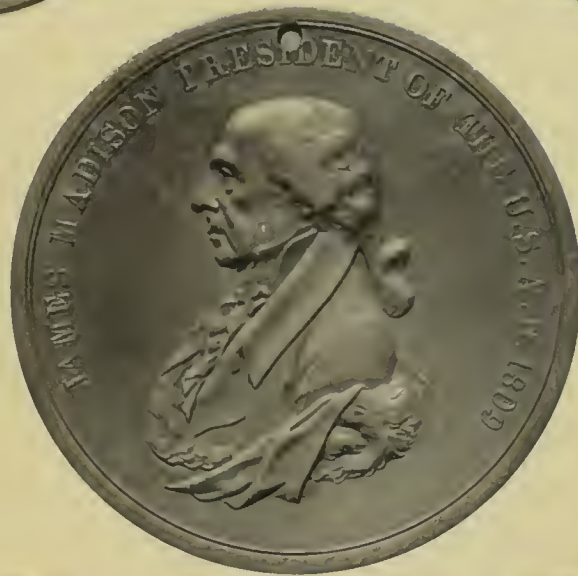




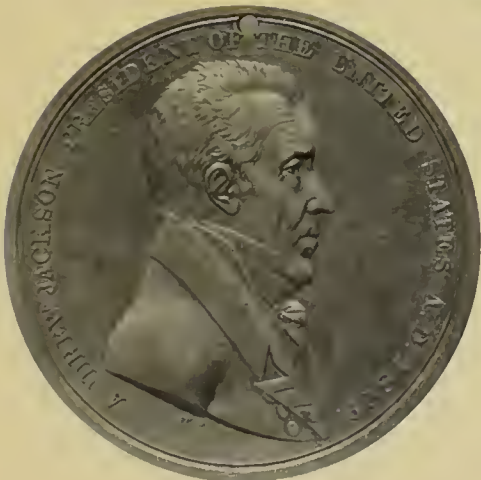
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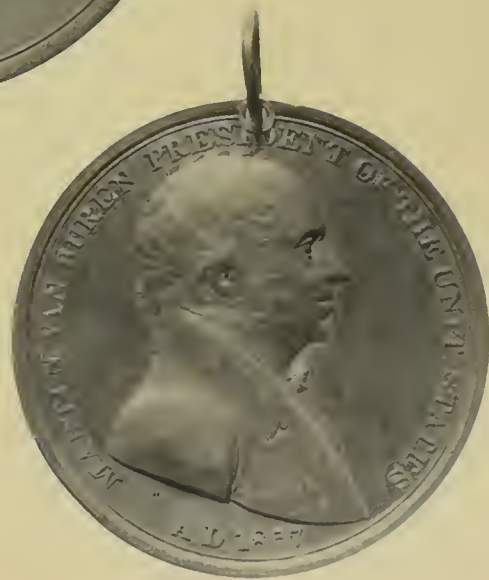
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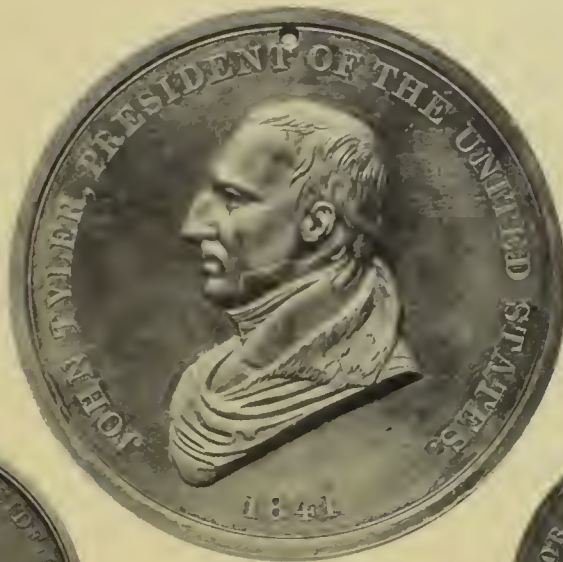
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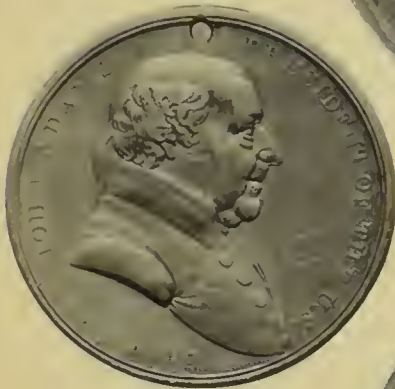
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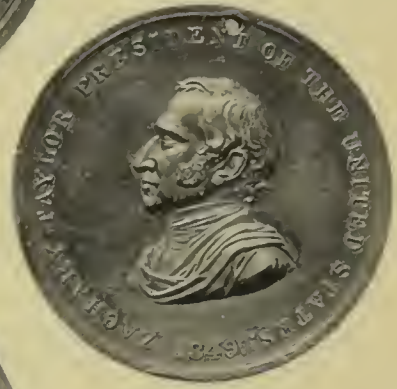
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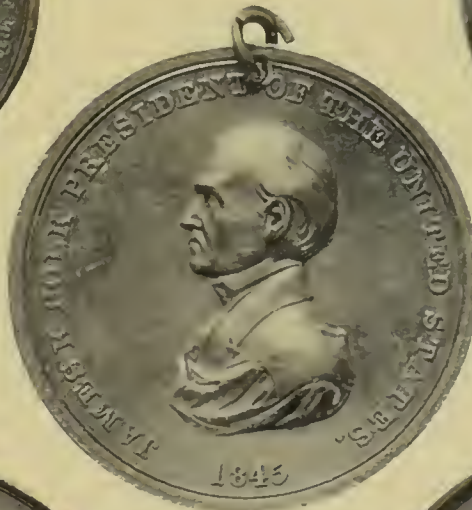
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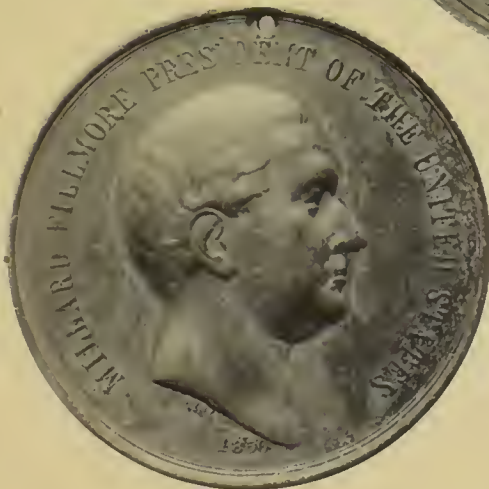
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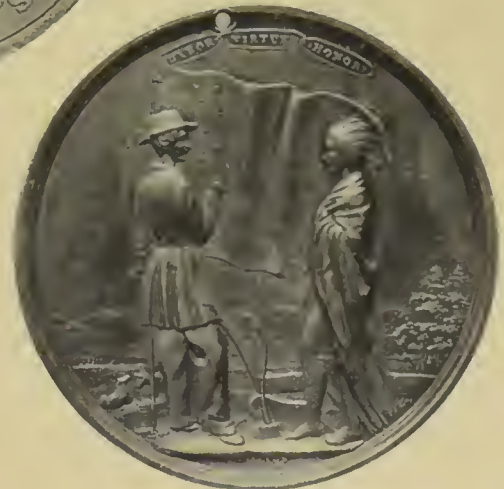
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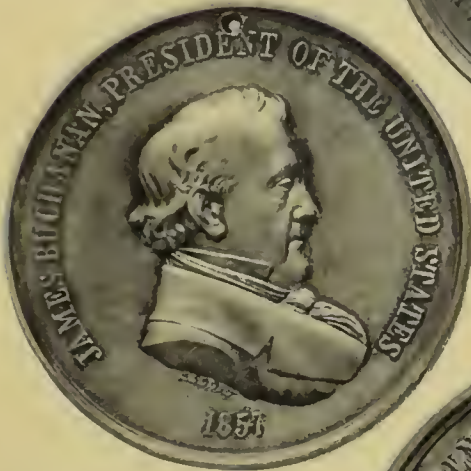


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2ND REVERSE



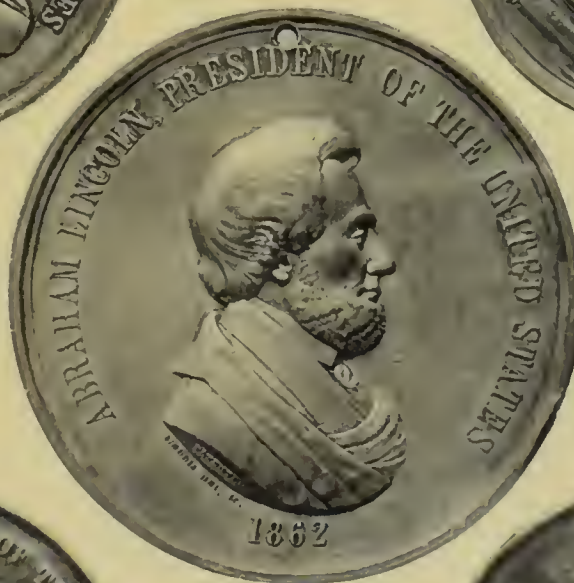
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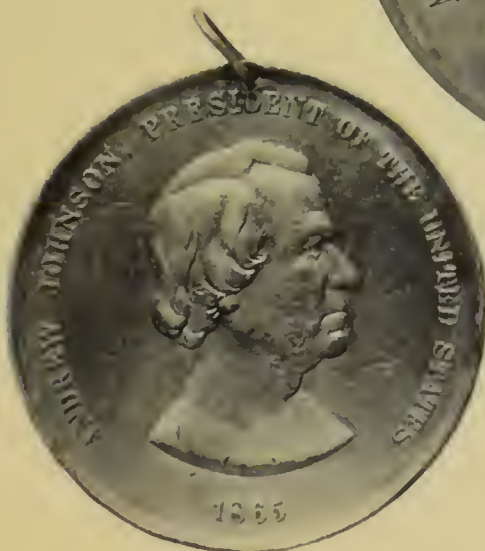
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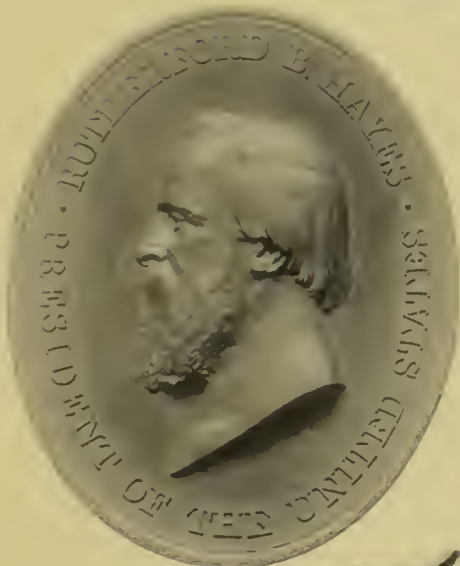
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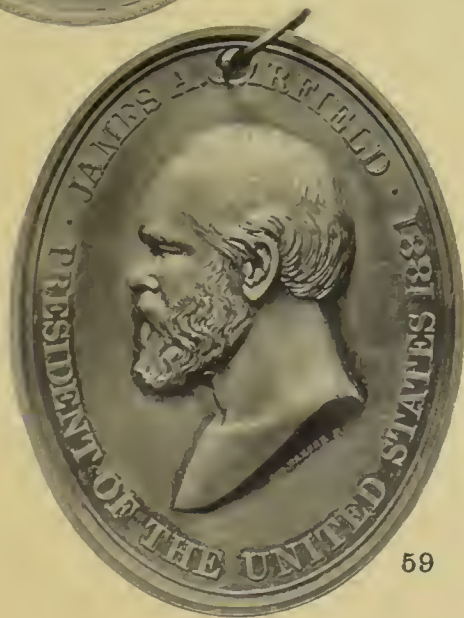
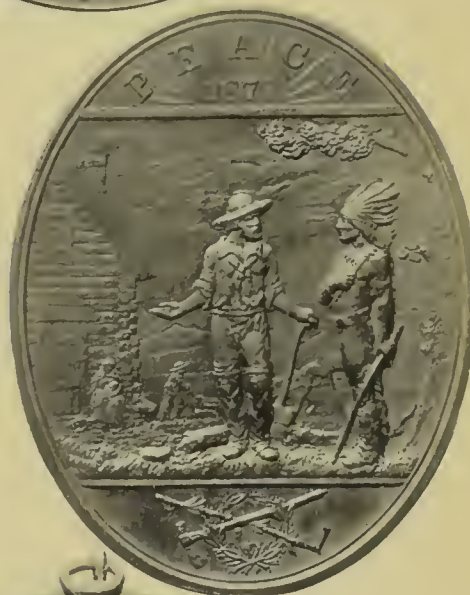
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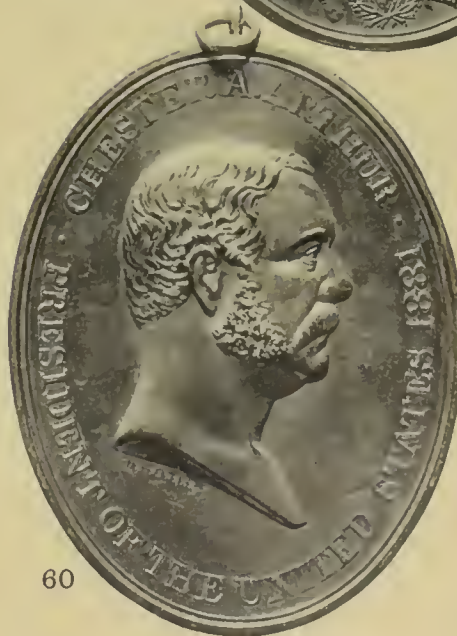
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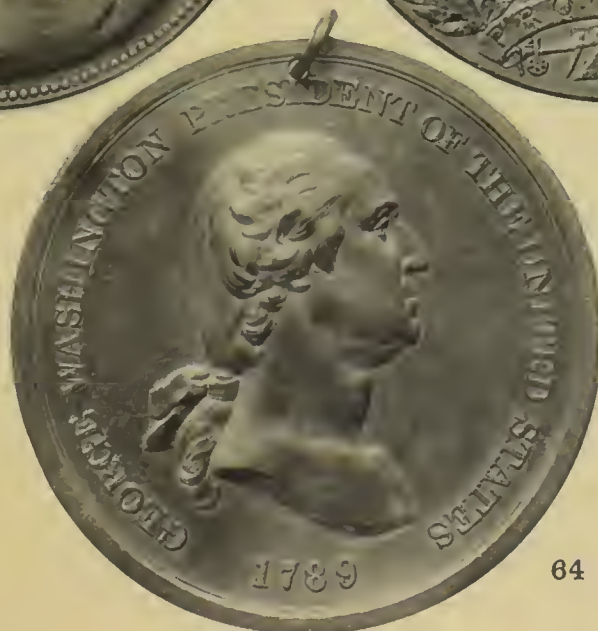
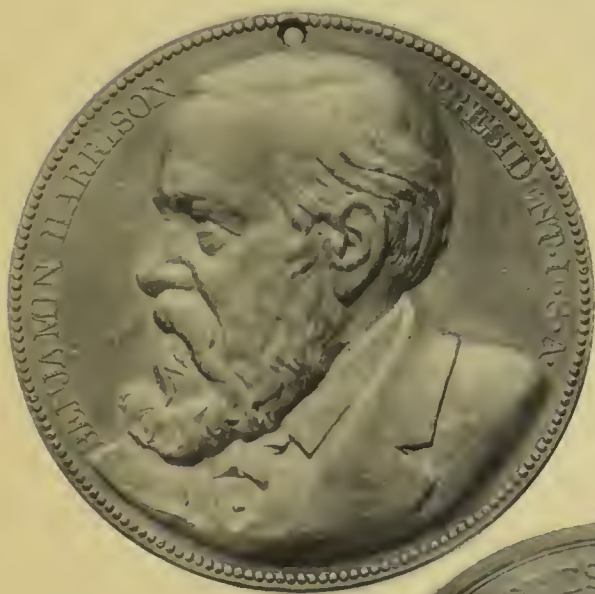
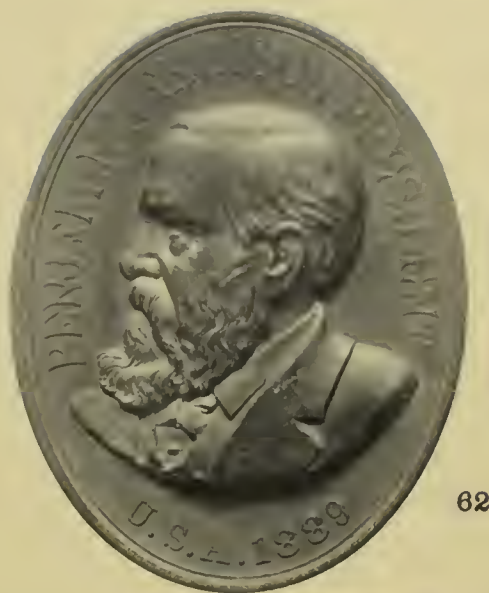
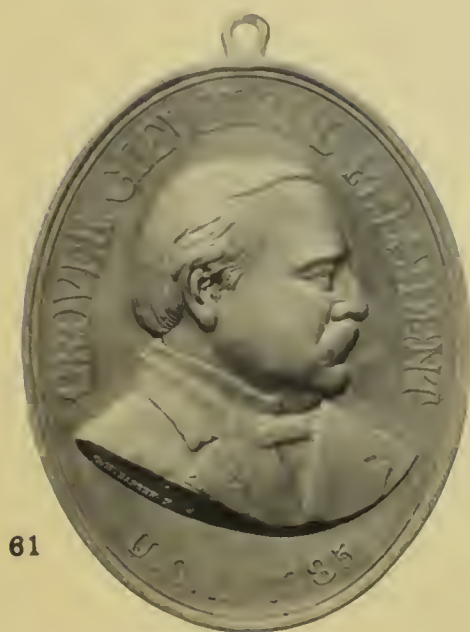
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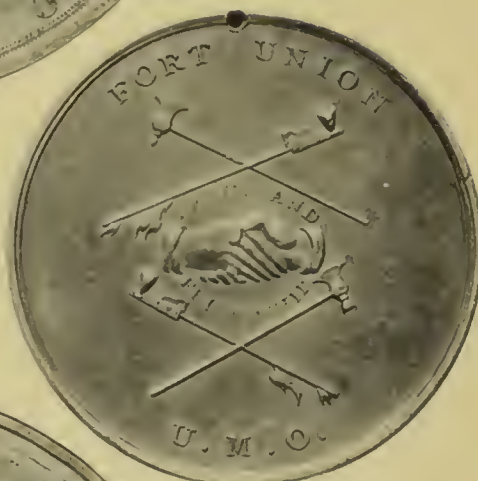




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II.



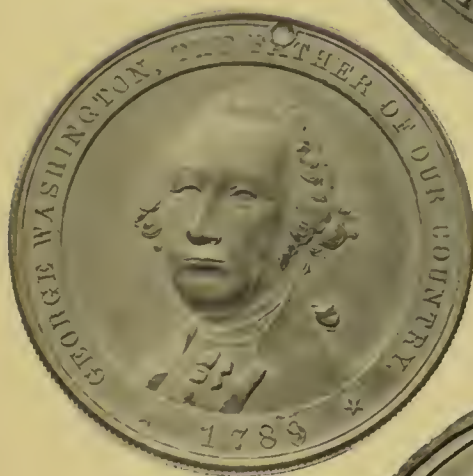
II.



I.



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III.



III.



